GOLD KEY
10000-309 SEPTEMBER
SOLAR
NOW ONLY 12c
DOCTOR SOLAR
MAN OF THE ATOM
FOR THE FIRST TIME -
Solar shows himself as the invincible Man of the Atom!

KEYS OF KNOWLEDGE

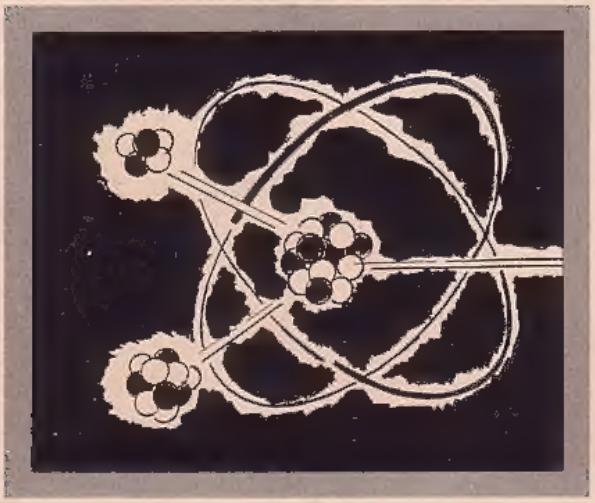
ATOMIC ENERGY

NUMBER 4

NUCLEAR FISSION

This is one of a series of information features in Gold Key Comics. Collect the whole series for useful knowledge.

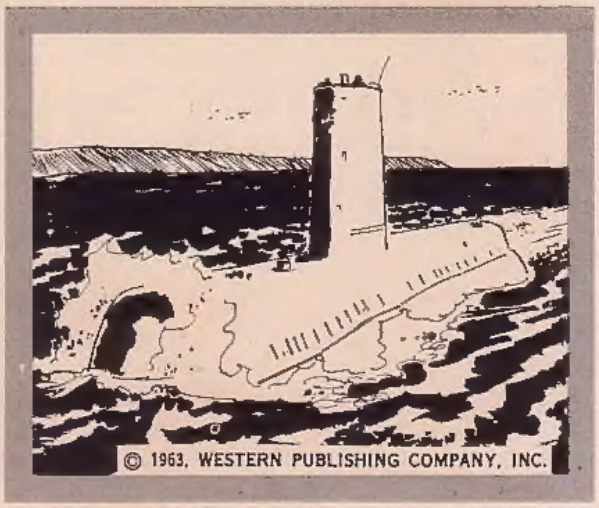
Fission of the atom is the act of breaking up into parts or splitting. Throw a snowball and watch it fission as it strikes an object.



When we want to split an atom, we shoot protons or neutrons and we get nuclear fission as they shatter the nucleus of the atom.

It occurred for the first time in history in Germany in 1939 when Otto Hahn and Fritz Strassman had bombarded a uranium

——atom with neutrons, splitting its nucleus; a great moment because nuclear fission releases tremendous energy as we know today


© 1963, WESTERN PUBLISHING COMPANY, INC.

——in the forms of heat and radiation which is the basis of atomic power. It now runs plants, ships and submarines for long periods.

DOCTOR SOLAR

The CRYSTALLIZED KILLERS

AT ATOM VALLEY, DR. SOLAR CONDUCTS A NEW EXPERIMENT TO TURN ENERGY INTO MATTER...

LET'S SEE IF SHORTENING THE ENERGY BEAM HELPS...

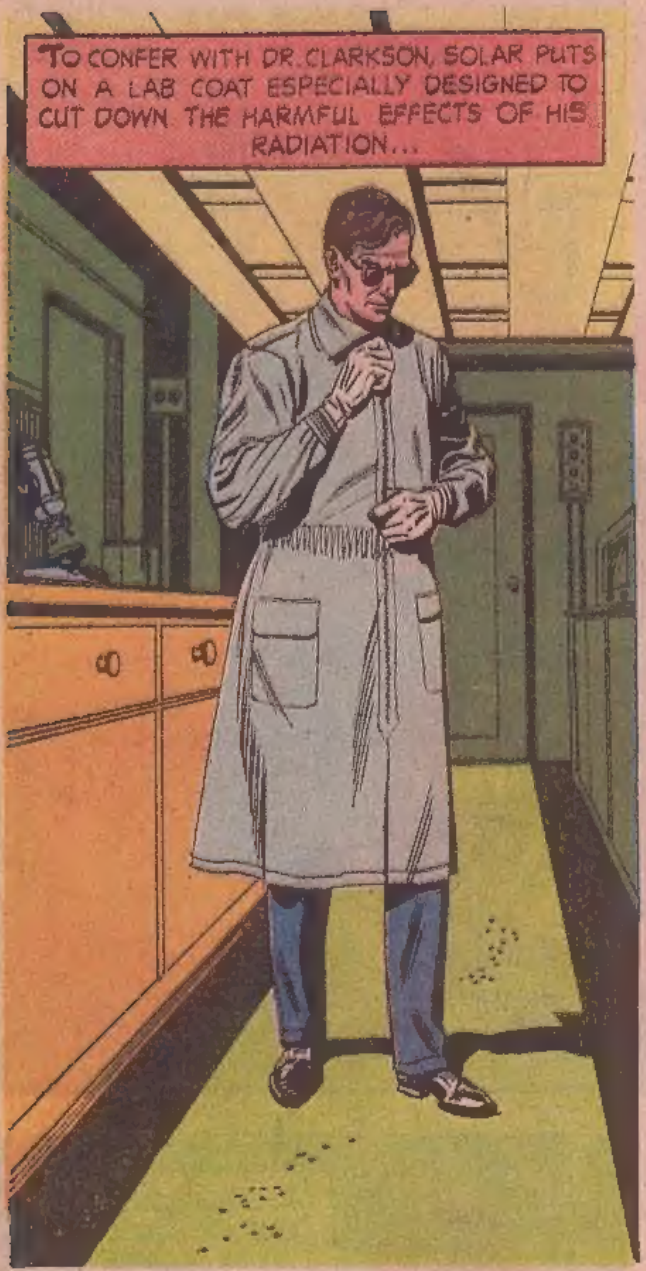
SUDDENLY, A GLOWING OBJECT, NO BIGGER THAN A GOLF BALL, APPEARS IN THE PATH OF THE BEAM!

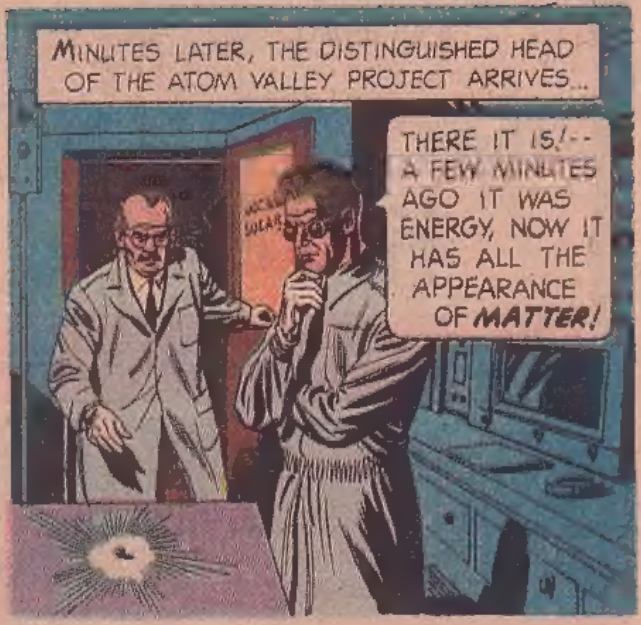
DR. CLARKSON! -- COME *QUICKLY!* I SEEM TO HAVE CREATED SOMETHING *NEW!*

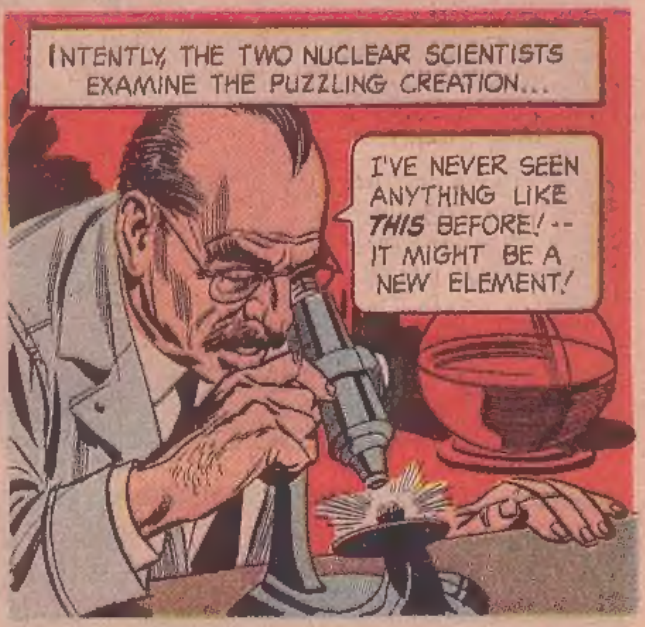
DR. SOLAR #5-636

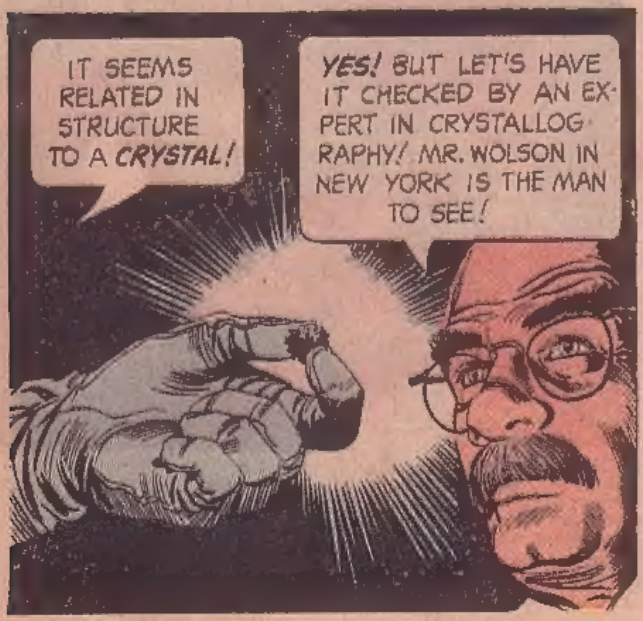
POSTMASTER: Please send notice on Form 3579 to K.K. Publications, Inc., Poughkeepsie, New York.
DOCTOR SOLAR, MAN OF THE ATOM, No. 5, September, 1963. Published quarterly by K.K. Publications, Inc., Poughkeepsie, New York, in cooperation with Golden Press, Inc. Application for second-class entry pending at Poughkeepsie, New York. Subscription price in the U.S.A. 45c per year; foreign subscriptions 75c per year; Canadian subscriptions 60c per year. All rights reserved throughout the world. Authorized edition. Designed, produced and printed in the U.S.A. by Western Printing & Lithographing Co. Copyright © 1963, by K.K. Publications, Inc.

CHANGES OF ADDRESS should reach us five weeks in advance of the next issue date. Give both your old and new address enclosing if possible your old address label.

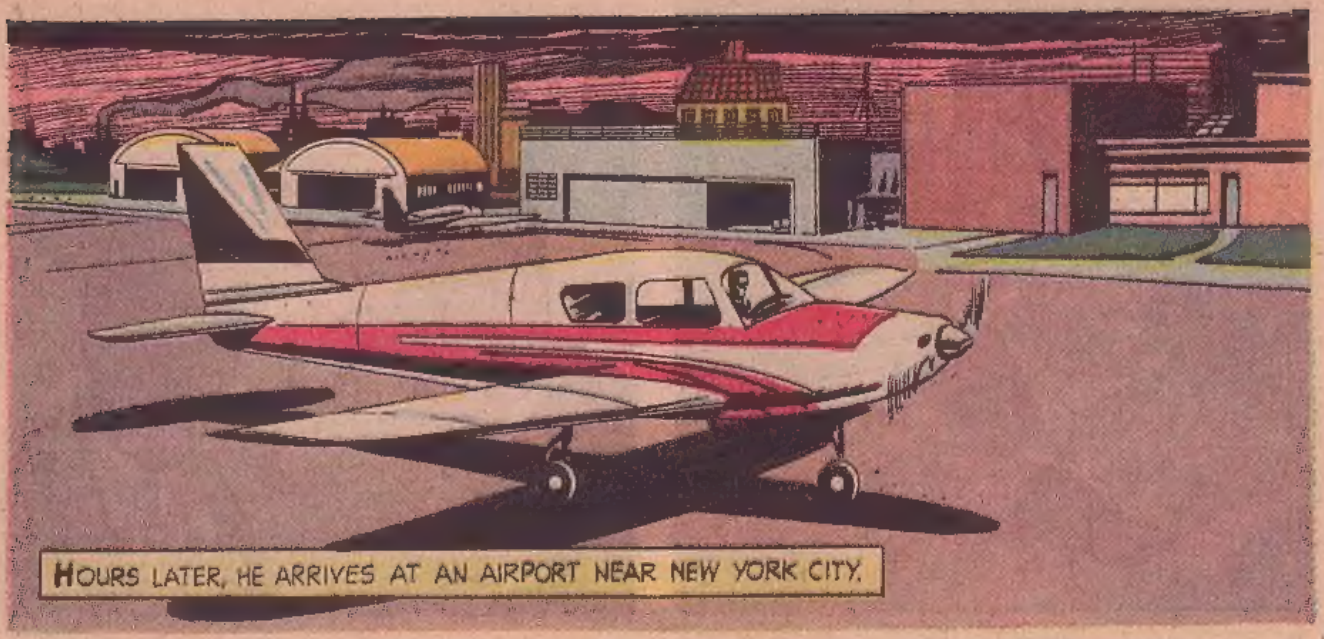

TO CONFER WITH DR. CLARKSON, SOLAR PUTS ON A LAB COAT ESPECIALLY DESIGNED TO CUT DOWN THE HARMFUL EFFECTS OF HIS RADIATION...


MINUTES LATER, THE DISTINGUISHED HEAD OF THE ATOM VALLEY PROJECT ARRIVES...
THERE IT IS!-- A FEW MINUTES AGO IT WAS ENERGY, NOW IT HAS ALL THE APPEARANCE OF MATTER!


INTENTLY, THE TWO NUCLEAR SCIENTISTS EXAMINE THE PUZZLING CREATION...
I'VE NEVER SEEN ANYTHING LIKE THIS BEFORE! -- IT MIGHT BE A NEW ELEMENT!


IT SEEMS RELATED IN STRUCTURE TO A CRYSTAL!
YES! BUT LET'S HAVE IT CHECKED BY AN EXPERT IN CRYSTALLOGRAPHY! MR. WOLSON IN NEW YORK IS THE MAN TO SEE!

NEXT MORNING, WITH THE INCREDIBLE PIECE OF ALIEN MATTER SECURE IN A CONTAINER, SOLAR PILOTS HIS PLANE EASTWARD...


HOURS LATER, HE ARRIVES AT AN AIRPORT NEAR NEW YORK CITY.

AS DR. SOLAR STEPS FROM HIS PLANE, HE PUTS ON A RADIATION-SHIELDING CAPE...

NOW I CAN MEET MR. WOLSON WITHOUT ENDANGERING HIM! LET'S SEE IF HE CAN COME UP WITH THE ANSWER!

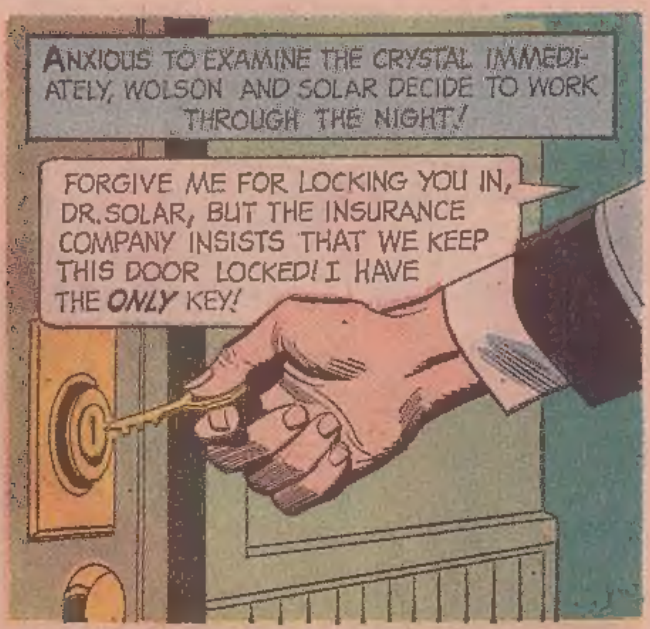
LATER, AT THE CRYSTALLOGRAPHY LAB...
DR. CLARKSON'S CALL MADE ME MOST EAGER TO HAVE A LOOK AT THIS! I'VE HANDLED EVERY TYPE CRYSTAL HERE!
BUT HAVE YOU EVER SEEN ANYTHING LIKE THIS?

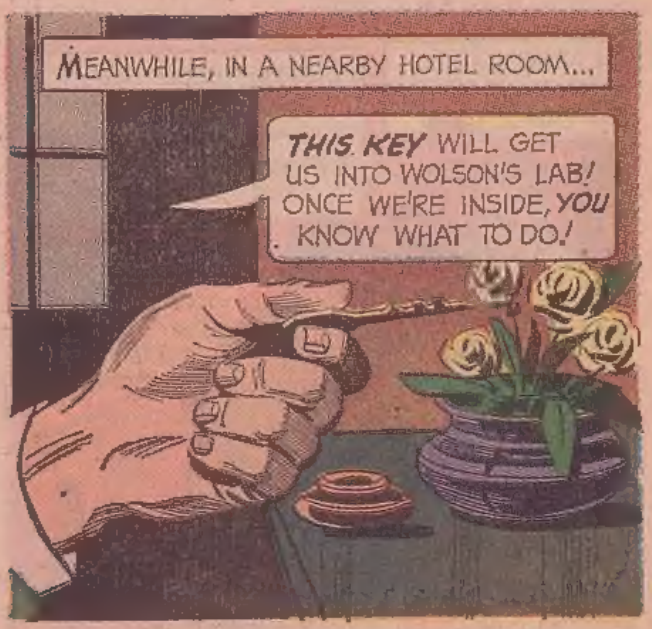
AS WOLSON TAKES THE CRYSTAL FROM ITS CONTAINER, IT'S SUDDENLY KNOCKED FROM HIS HAND!
SORRY!

WE'RE IN LUCK! IT DOESN'T SEEM DAMAGED!

THAT'S *STRANGE!* IT DOESN'T FIT NOW!
BUT IT *MUST!* IT JUST CAME OUT OF THAT BOX!

SEE FOR YOURSELF!
WHY, YOU'RE RIGHT! IT'S AS THOUGH THE CRYSTAL HAD *GROWN!*


ANXIOUS TO EXAMINE THE CRYSTAL IMMEDIATELY, WOLSON AND SOLAR DECIDE TO WORK THROUGH THE NIGHT!
FORGIVE ME FOR LOCKING YOU IN, DR. SOLAR, BUT THE INSURANCE COMPANY INSISTS THAT WE KEEP THIS DOOR LOCKED! I HAVE THE *ONLY* KEY!

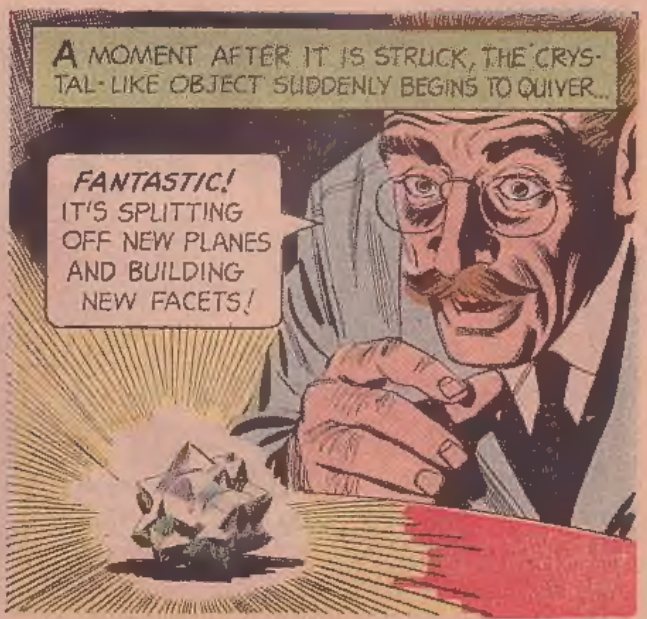

MEANWHILE, IN A NEARBY HOTEL ROOM...
THIS KEY WILL GET US INTO WOLSON'S LAB! ONCE WE'RE INSIDE, *YOU* KNOW WHAT TO DO!

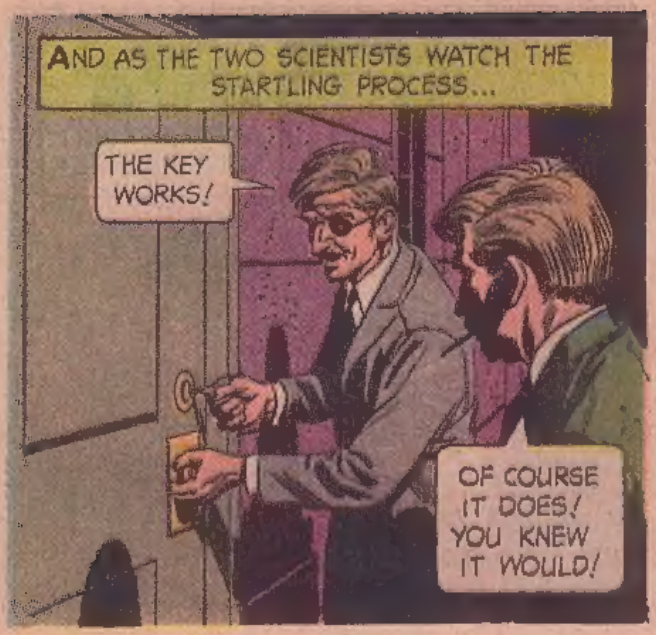
I KNOW MY JOB! YOU DO *YOURS* AND WE'LL GET THAT ROCK!

OUR BEST CHANCE IS TO PULL THE JOB *NOW!* GET INTO YOUR DISGUISE!

THE EXPERT MAKE-UP ARTISTS WORK QUICKLY...
WELL?
PERFECT! AFTER WE FINISH, THE COPS WILL BE BUSY LOOKING FOR *TWINS* WITH EYE PATCHES!

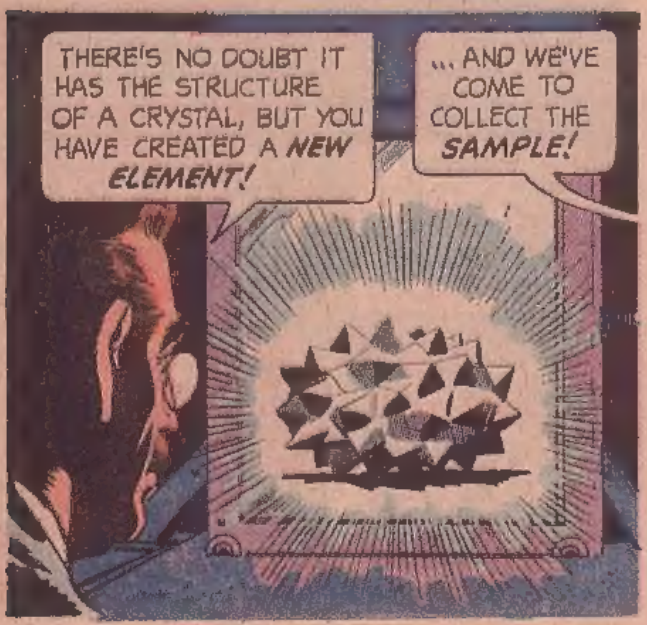
MEANWHILE, SOLAR AND WOLSON CONTINUE THEIR INVESTIGATION...
THAT FALL SEEMS TO HAVE INCREASED ITS SIZE! LET'S SEE WHAT HAPPENS IF WE STRIKE IT...


A MOMENT AFTER IT IS STRUCK, THE CRYSTAL-LIKE OBJECT SUDDENLY BEGINS TO QUIVER...
FANTASTIC! IT'S SPLITTING OFF NEW PLANES AND BUILDING NEW FACETS!


AND AS THE TWO SCIENTISTS WATCH THE STARTLING PROCESS...
THE KEY WORKS!
OF COURSE IT DOES! YOU KNEW IT WOULD!

WE BETTER NOT *MISS!* OUR ORDERS ARE TO GET THAT STONE FOR SOMEBODY *BIG!*

WHILE INSIDE THE LAB...
IT'S STILL HARD TO BELIEVE, BUT IT MORE THAN *TRIPLED* ITS SIZE!
LET'S SEE WHAT THE FLUOROSCOPE REVEALS OF ITS STRUCTURE!


THERE'S NO DOUBT IT HAS THE STRUCTURE OF A CRYSTAL, BUT YOU HAVE CREATED A *NEW ELEMENT!*
... AND WE'VE COME TO COLLECT THE *SAMPLE!*

WHAT? HOW DID YOU ---
QUIET! JUST *HAND OVER THAT ROCK!*

BUT THIS HAS NO VALUE TO YOU-- ONLY SCIENTIFIC---
---MAYBE WE'RE A COUPLE OF SCIENCE BUFFS! HAND IT OVER!

NO!
WATCH OUT!

DON'T---
BANG!

WOLSON!
FINISH OFF THE OTHER GUY! THE LAST THING WE NEED IS A WITNESS TO A MURDER RAP!
OWW!

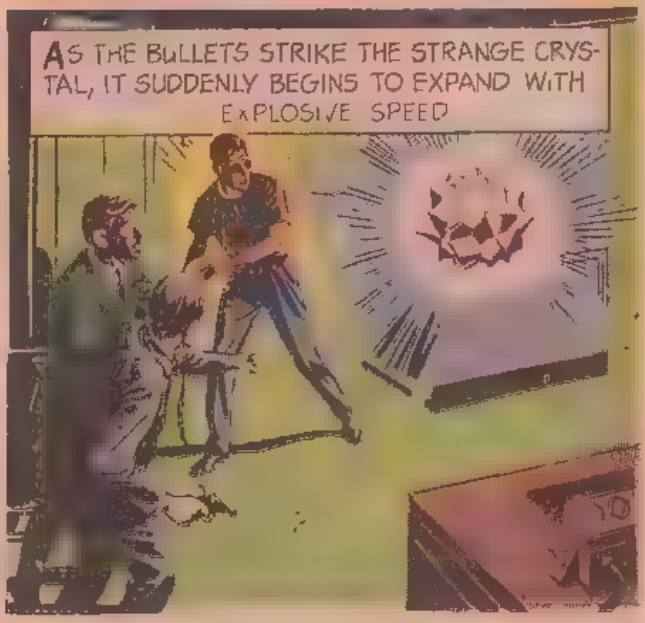
BUT BEFORE THEY CAN FIRE, DR. SOLAR ACTIVATES HIS AMAZING ATOMIC POWER! INSTANTLY HIS RADIO-ACTIVE BODY BEGINS TO GLOW WITH HEAT!

WH-WHAT'S HAPPENING TO HIM?
I DON'T KNOW, BUT THIS WILL STOP IT!
BANG!
BLAM!
THWAACK!
PING!
LOOK! TH-THOSE BULLETS DON'T HURT HIM--THEY JUST HIT HIM AND MELT!
BANG!
BANG!
WE'RE SEEING THINGS! KEEP FIRING!
BANG!
BANG!
MY GUN'S EMPTY!

I-IT MELTED!

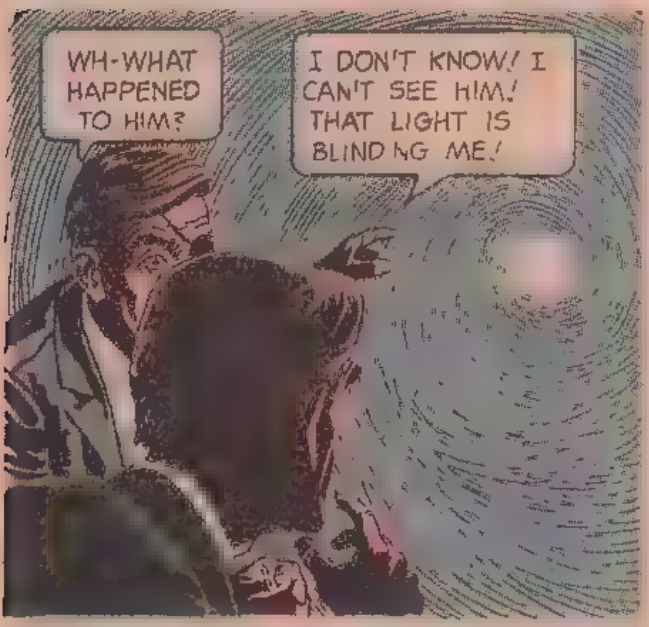
NOTHING CAN STOP HIM. GET OUT OF HERE!

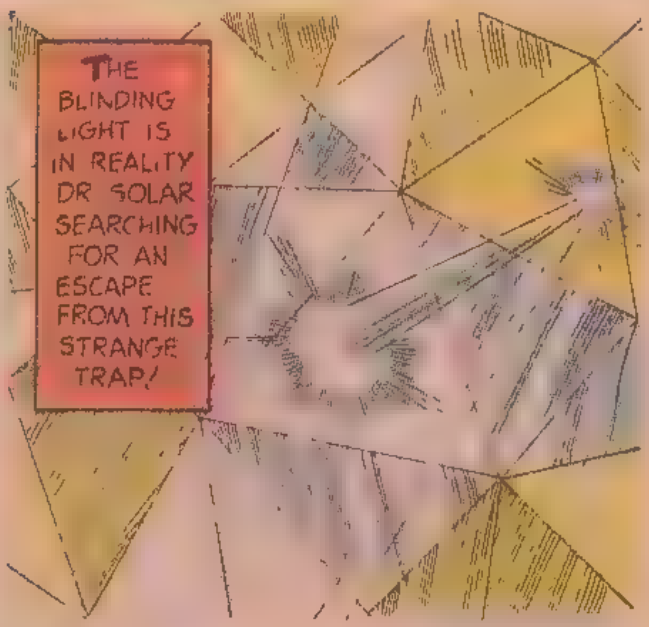
TWAAACK!
AACK!

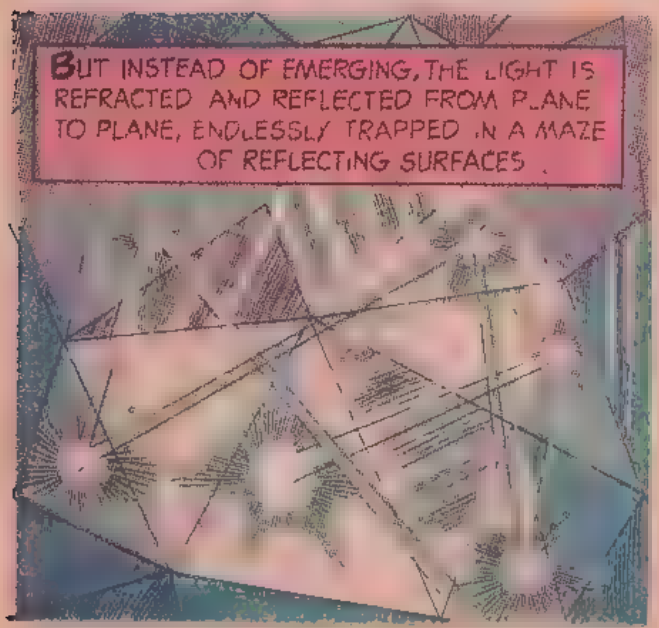

AS THE BULLETS STRIKE THE STRANGE CRYSTAL, IT SUDDENLY BEGINS TO EXPAND WITH EXPLOSIVE SPEED

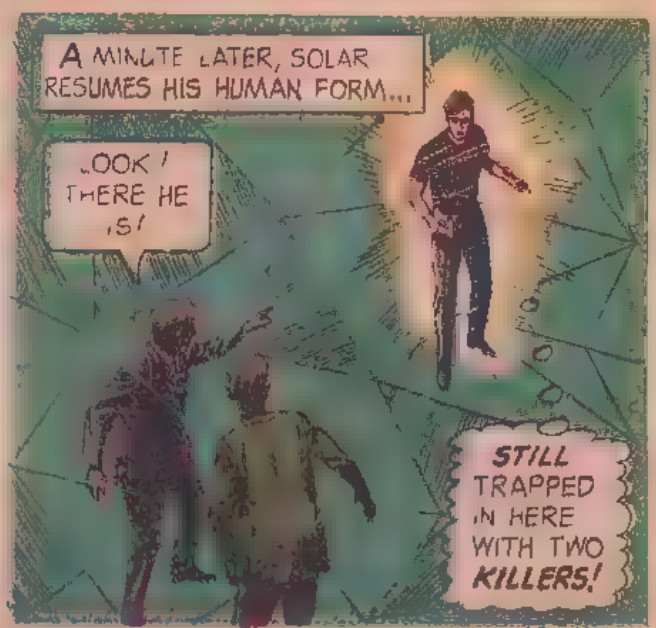
HEY! THAT CRAZY ROCK'S COMING FOR US! LOOK OUT!
WITHIN MINUTES, THE WILDLY GROWING CRYSTAL FILLS THE ENTIRE ROOM COMPLETELY ENCIRCLING THE TWO GUNMEN AND SOLAR HIMSELF!
TRAPPED! WE'RE TRAPPED IN HERE TOGETHER!
IT'S A CRYSTAL PRISON!
IT'S NO USE!--HITTING T ONLY MAKES IT GROW! MY ONLY CHANCE OF ESCAPE IS USING MY ATOMIC POWERS!--- BUT THIS PAIR KNOWS TOO MUCH OF MY SECRET ALREADY!

FOR A MOMENT, DR. SOLAR HESITATES! THEN, FORCED TO ACT, HE STARTS CONVERTING HIS ENERGY INTO GLOWING NUCLEAR LIGHT...

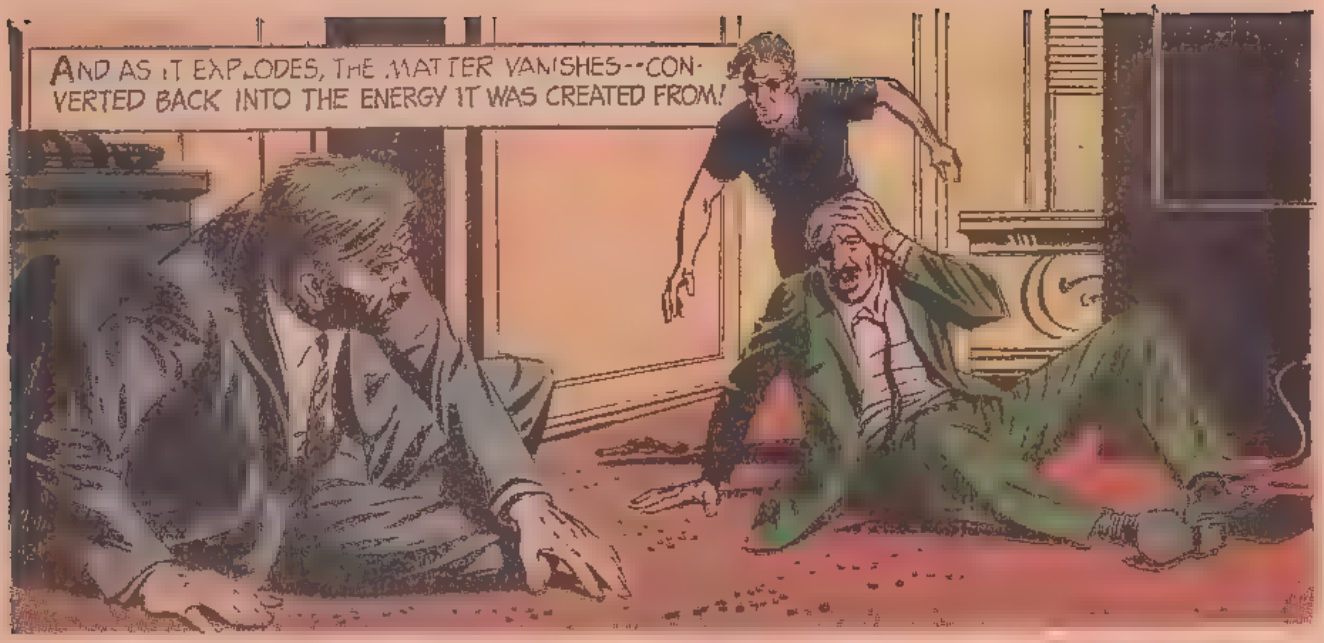

WH-WHAT HAPPENED TO HIM?
I DON'T KNOW! I CAN'T SEE HIM! THAT LIGHT IS BLINDING ME!


THE BLINDING LIGHT IS IN REALITY DR SOLAR SEARCHING FOR AN ESCAPE FROM THIS STRANGE TRAP!

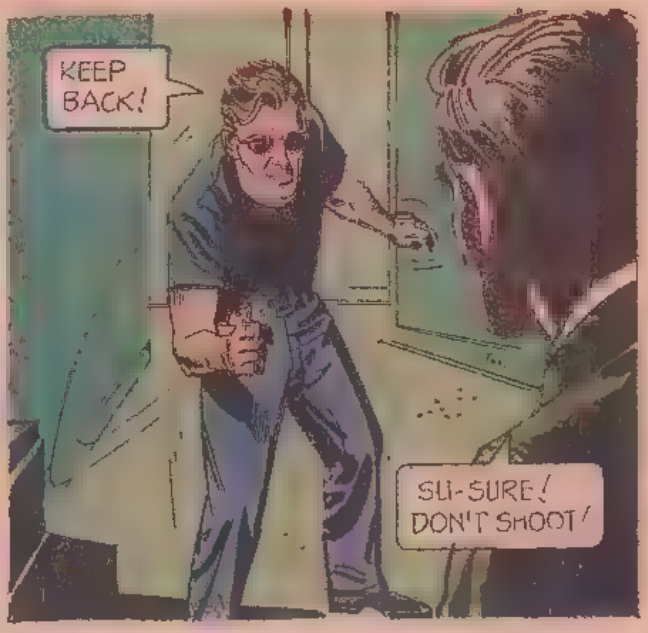

BUT INSTEAD OF EMERGING, THE LIGHT IS REFRACTED AND REFLECTED FROM PLANE TO PLANE, ENDLESSLY TRAPPED IN A MAZE OF REFLECTING SURFACES.

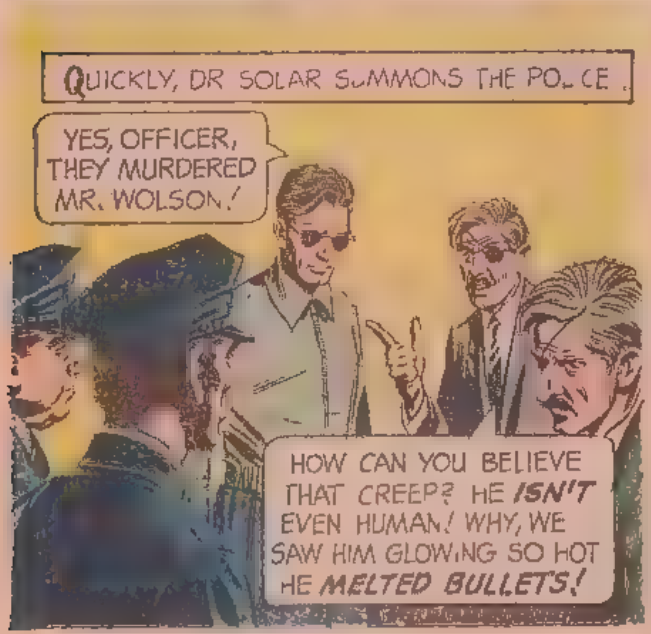

A MINUTE LATER, SOLAR RESUMES HIS HUMAN FORM...
LOOK! THERE HE IS!
STILL TRAPPED IN HERE WITH TWO KILLERS!

-- B..T THERE MAY BE A SIMPLE WAY OUT! STRIKING THIS SUBSTANCE MAKES IT EXPAND, BUT NO NEW MATTER IS CREATED!
PROBABLY THE LARGER IT GROWS THE MORE FRAGILE IT GETS!
AGAIN AND AGAIN DR. SOLAR STRIKES THE SURROUNDING PLANES OF HIS PRISON!
WHAT'S HE UP TO?
I-I DON'T GET IT, BUT THIS KOOKIE THING IS GROWING BIGGER AND BIGGER!
SUDDENLY, SOLAR'S THEORY IS PROVEN AS THE CRYSTAL SHATTERS LIKE A HUGE SOAP BUBBLE!
POW!!

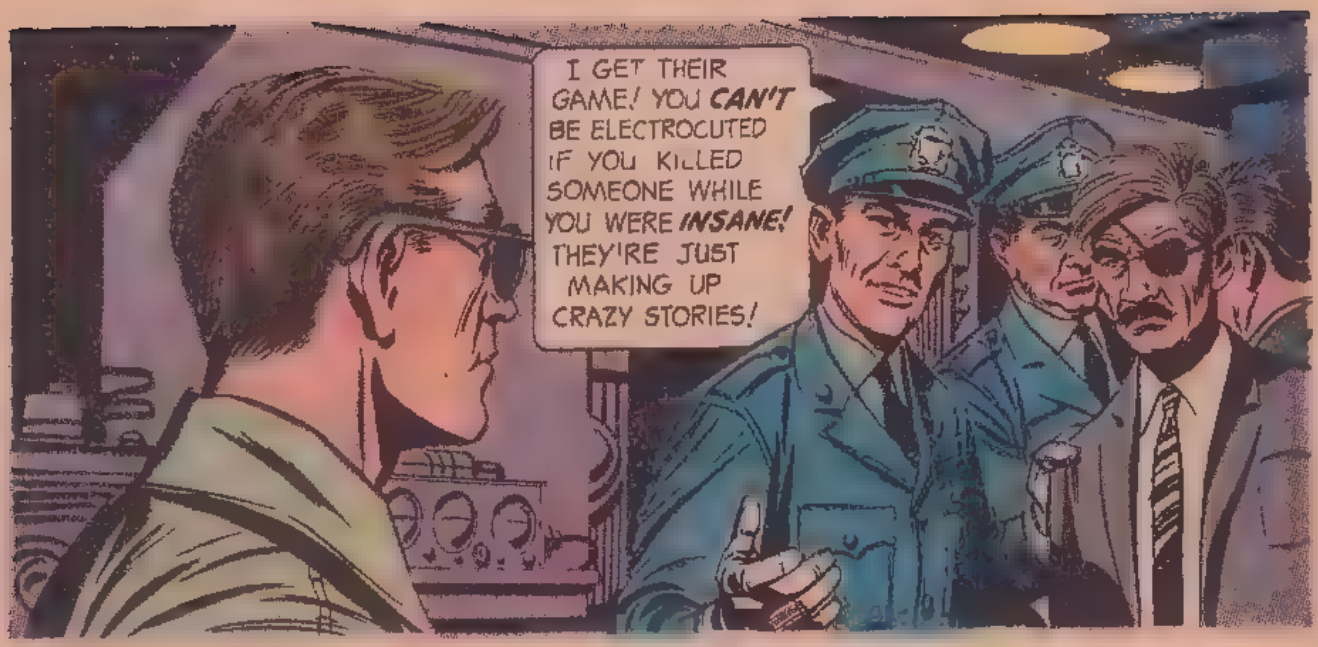

AND AS IT EXPLODES, THE MATTER VANISHES--CONVERTED BACK INTO THE ENERGY IT WAS CREATED FROM!

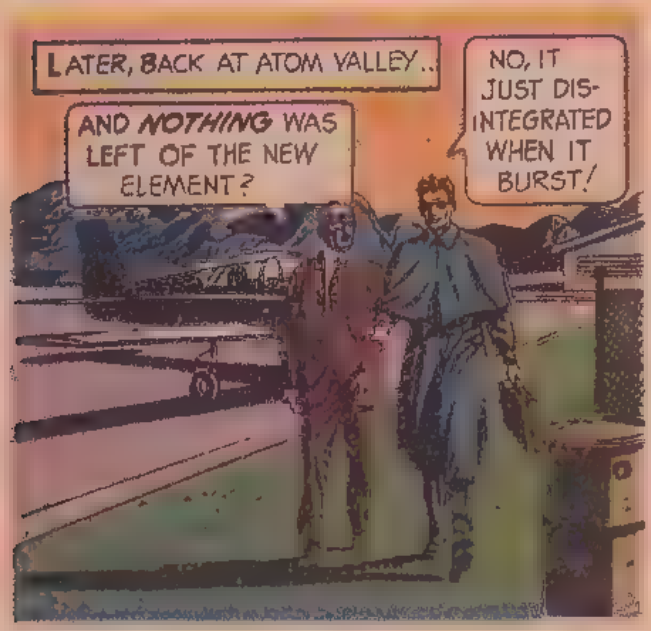
HE'S GOING FOR THE GUN! GET IT!

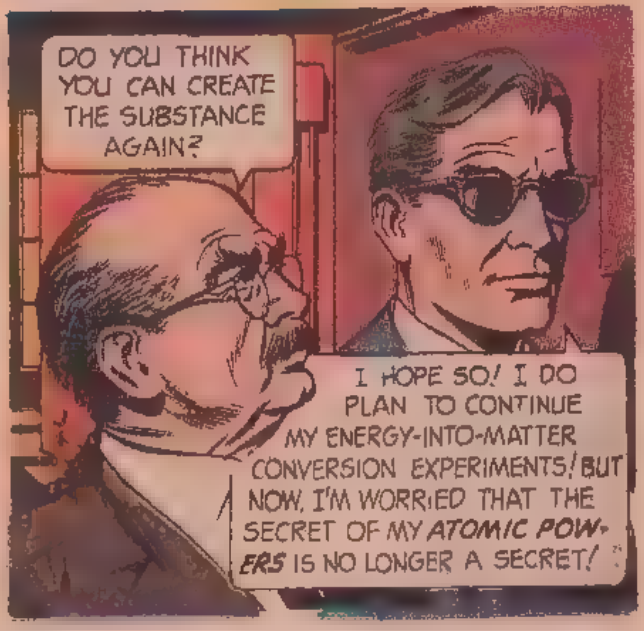

KEEP BACK!
SU-SURE! DON'T SHOOT!


QUICKLY, DR SOLAR SUMMONS THE POLICE.
YES, OFFICER, THEY MURDERED MR. WOLSON!
HOW CAN YOU BELIEVE THAT CREEP? HE ISN'T EVEN HUMAN! WHY, WE SAW HIM GLOWING SO HOT HE MELTED BULLETS!

MELTED BULLETS?
THAT'S NOT ALL! WHY, HE EVEN MELTED MY GUN!

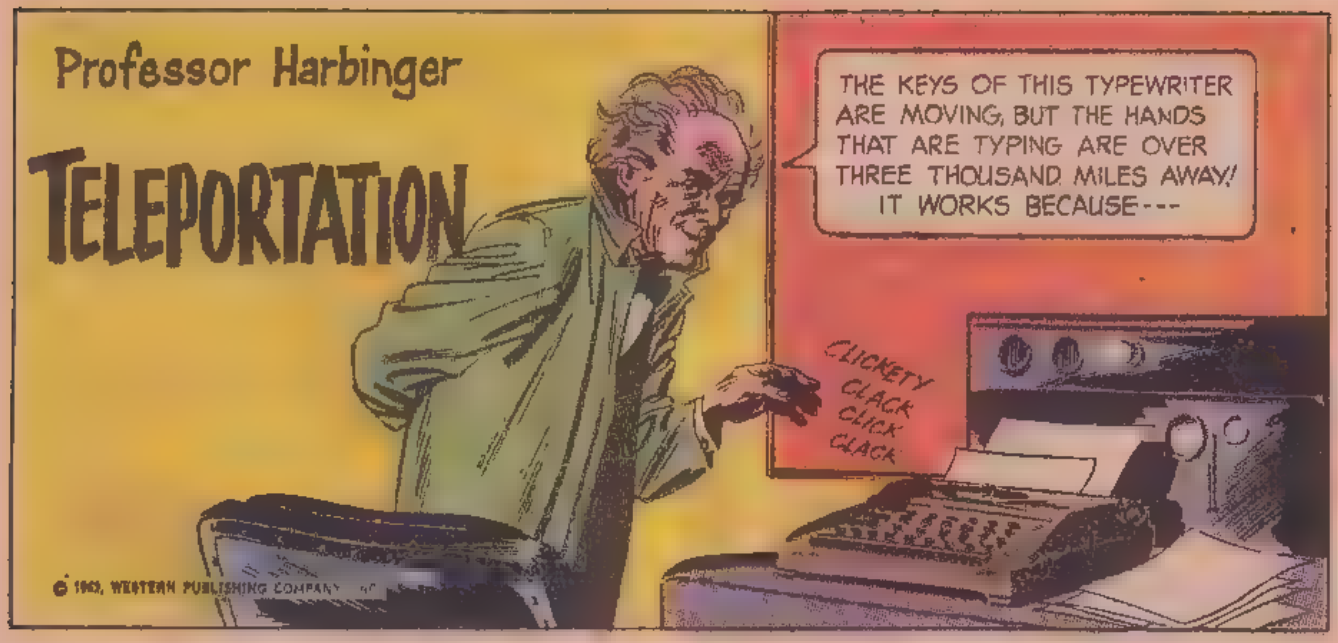

I GET THEIR GAME! YOU CAN'T BE ELECTROCUTED IF YOU KILLED SOMEONE WHILE YOU WERE INSANE! THEY'RE JUST MAKING UP CRAZY STORIES!

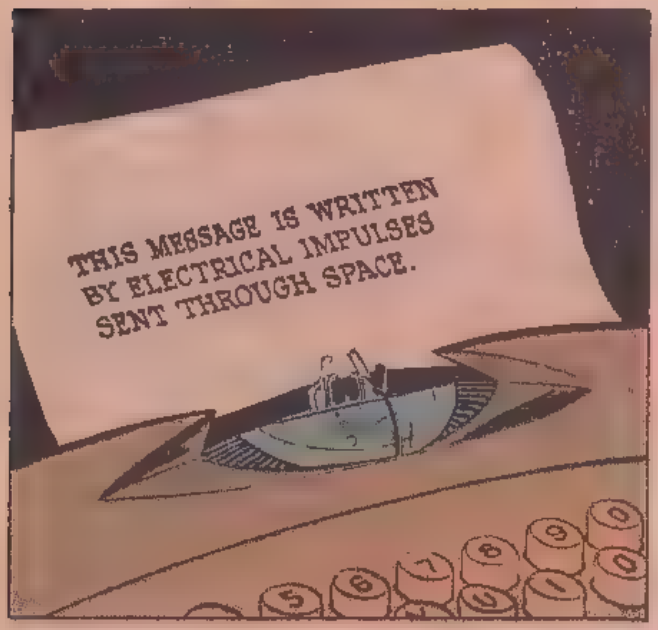

LATER, BACK AT ATOM VALLEY..
AND NOTHING WAS LEFT OF THE NEW ELEMENT?
NO, IT JUST DIS-INTEGRATED WHEN IT BURST!


DO YOU THINK YOU CAN CREATE THE SUBSTANCE AGAIN?
I HOPE SO! I DO PLAN TO CONTINUE MY ENERGY-INTO-MATTER CONVERSION EXPERIMENTS! BUT NOW, I'M WORRIED THAT THE SECRET OF MY ATOMIC POWERS IS NO LONGER A SECRET!

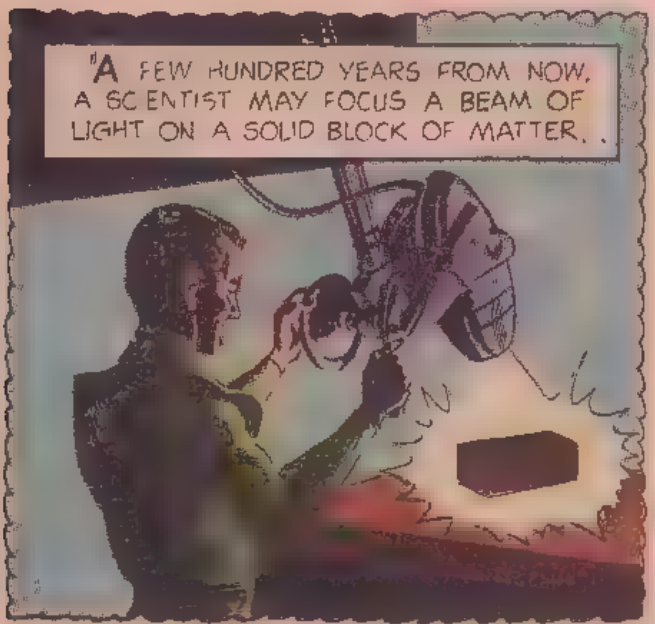
YOU WON'T WORRY ABOUT THAT AFTER YOU READ THE PAPERS!

Daily Press
WOLSON'S KILLERS FACE CHAIR
INSANITY PLEA STORY NOT BELIEVED BY JURY..


Professor Harbinger
TELEPORTATION
THE KEYS OF THIS TYPEWRITER ARE MOVING, BUT THE HANDS THAT ARE TYPING ARE OVER THREE THOUSAND MILES AWAY! IT WORKS BECAUSE---
CLICKETY CLACK CLICK CLACK
© 1963, WESTERN PUBLISHING COMPANY


THIS MESSAGE IS WRITTEN BY ELECTRICAL IMPULSES SENT THROUGH SPACE.

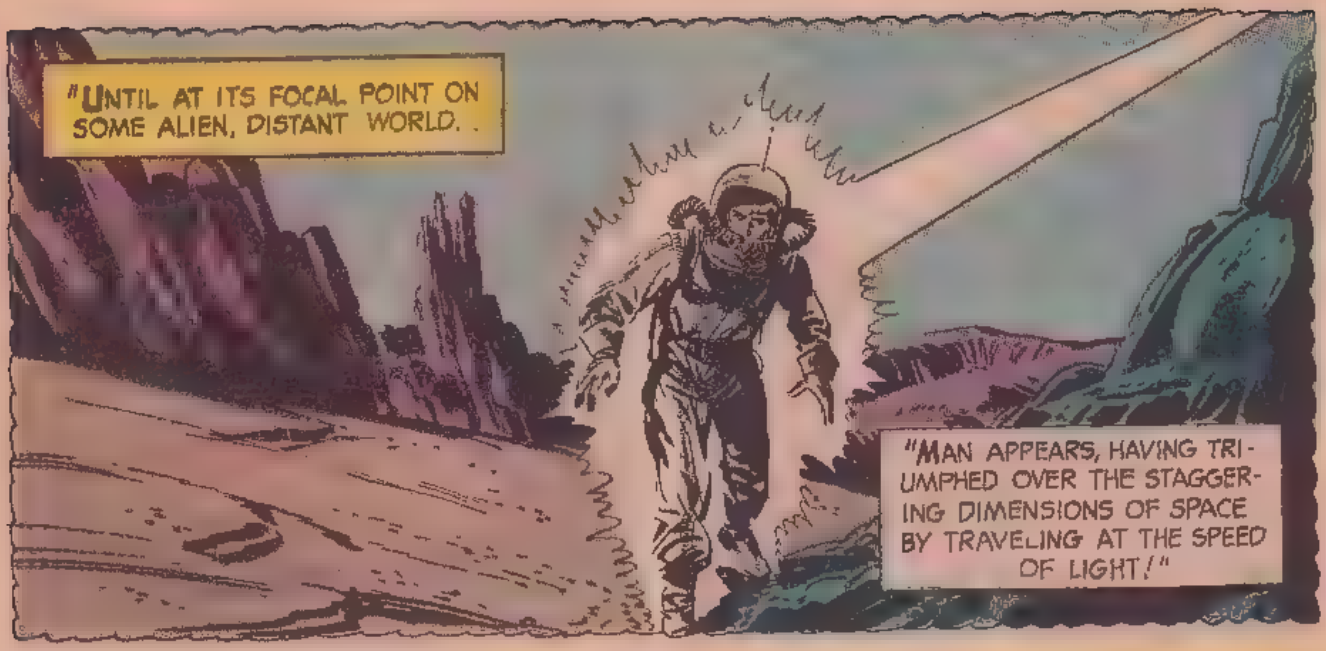
TODAY, WE CAN SEND REMOTE RADIO SIGNALS THROUGH SPACE! BUT THINK OF THE FUTURE POSSIBILITIES---

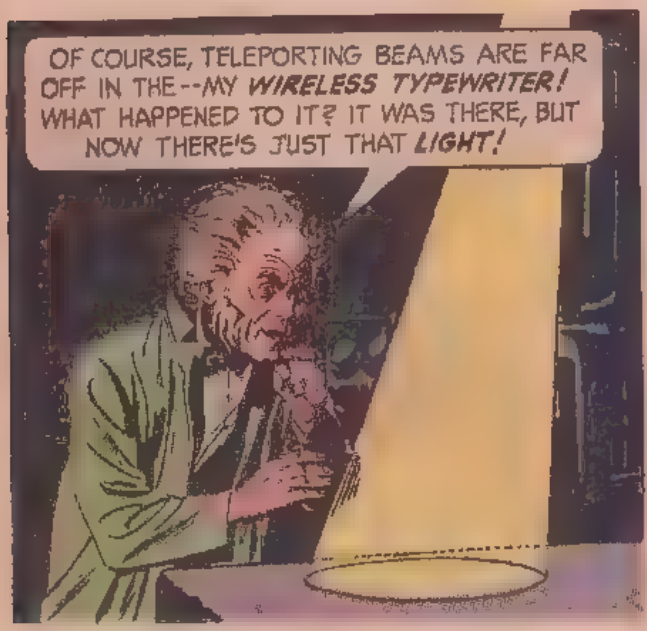

A FEW HUNDRED YEARS FROM NOW, A SCIENTIST MAY FOCUS A BEAM OF LIGHT ON A SOLID BLOCK OF MATTER...

IN A FLASH, THE BLOCK WILL VANISH!
ZZZ

"ONLY TO REAPPEAR, THOUSANDS OF MILES AWAY, WHERE A SIGNAL BEAM ON THE SAME ELECTRIC FREQUENCY...
NING NING NING
REASSEMBLES MATTER TELEPORTED BY ELECTRIC IMPULSES THROUGH SPACE!
"SINCE ALMOST ALL MATTER IS ELECTRICAL IN NATURE, THE ELECTRONIC COMPONENTS OF EVERY TYPE MATERIAL WILL EVENTUALLY BE DETERMINED AND CODED...
BY FOCUSING A BEAM ON AN OBJECT AND CODING THOSE ELECTRONIC COMPONENTS INTO LIGHT WAVES
"IT CAN BECOME AN ELECTRICAL SIGNAL AND VANISH...

"THEN THE OBJECT CAN BE TELEPORTED LIKE RADIO WAVES ACROSS THE VASTNESS OF SPACE
TO REFORM WHERE NEEDED BY ALMOST INSTANTANEOUS TRANSMISSION!
"IN TIME, ALL TYPES OF MATTER WILL YIELD THEIR SECRET ELECTRONIC CODE-#@! EVEN MAN!
AND FAR IN THE FUTURE HUMAN BEINGS CAN BE TELEPORTED BY ELECTRIC BEAMS
"TRAVELING AT THE FANTASTIC SPEED OF LIGHT ACROSS THE GIANT SPACE VOID


"UNTIL AT ITS FOCAL POINT ON SOME ALIEN, DISTANT WORLD. .
"MAN APPEARS, HAVING TRIUMPHED OVER THE STAGGERING DIMENSIONS OF SPACE BY TRAVELING AT THE SPEED OF LIGHT!"


OF COURSE, TELEPORTING BEAMS ARE FAR OFF IN THE--MY *WIRELESS TYPEWRITER!* WHAT HAPPENED TO IT? IT WAS THERE, BUT NOW THERE'S JUST THAT *LIGHT!*

OH, SORRY, PROFESSOR HARBINGER! I FORGOT TO SWITCH OFF THE SPOTLIGHT BEFORE---

WHEN I CAME IN TO BORROW YOUR WRELESS TYPEWRITER!

SOLAR'S SCIENCE FORUM

I think super villains are as important to Comics as super heroes. I think your villain, Nuro, in DOCTOR SOLAR, has the makings of a good S-V. What is the purpose behind the evil things he does? It can't be money, he seems to have all he needs. Incidentally, where does he get his money? How does he manage to place his agents wherever he wants whenever he wants so easily?

HAROLD FREDERICKS, JR.
77 GATES AVE.
GILETTE, N. J.

(We agree that super villains are an essential opposite to any good hero. Nuro is a man of mystery. The source of his great wealth is no better known than where Daddy Warbucks gets all his money. He is power mad and delights in controlling other human beings. Some he can buy. Others, like Solar, he can't. These honest people are a challenge to him, more than he can resist.)

In the story THE DEADLY SEA, when Solar went underwater to look for the source of the radiation, he had to leave in a hurry when his form began to convert into energy. Later in the same story, he converted himself into energy and purposely went into the water to bury the waste containers Nuro had been using. Wasn't he afraid he couldn't re-form this time either?

DONALD JUDD
5 ROOSEVELT PLACE
ROOSEVELT, NEW YORK

(When he first found them, intense radiation from the waste containers set up an involuntary reaction that began to convert Solar's body into energy. Later, he was able to control the reaction and, with his will in complete command, was sure of being able to re-form.)

I think DOCTOR SOLAR is a unique hero, and I believe he should be published more often. Who writes his adventures?

GREGG WAY
8725 16TH ST.
SEATTLE, WASH.

(Solar's adventures have been written by different writers and it's difficult to single out any one of them for credit. Most of them, and all in this issue, were written by Paul Newman, a regular contributor to GOLD KEY Comics, whose credits range from FREEDOM AGENT to THE MIGHTY HERCULES.)

When I first saw DOCTOR SOLAR, I thought he'd be thoroughly disgusting. But I read it and fell in love with it! Never in all my 13 years of Comic buying have I ever seen a character have so much. May I suggest leaving the idea as it is. I mean, no space monsters, no jealous woman in love with Solar who is always trying to find out about him, And don't waste valuable space on "The Meteor Mystery" and PROFESSOR HARBINGER.

JIM CONNOR
ROSE CREST MOTEL
KEY WEST, FLORIDA

(We have no plans for adding space monsters to Solar's troubles. Although the basis of the character is pure fantasy, we try to keep his adventures within the realm of actual scientific fact. Since the existence of space monsters has no basis in proven fact, Solar will probably never meet one.
As you'll see in the following story, although she indeed loves Solar, Gail Sanders will not spend any more time trying to find out his secret! PROFESSOR HARBINGER has proven quite popular with many readers. Sorry to hear you don't agree.)

DOCTOR SOLAR is a good hero with fine artwork. Though the green coloring is a problem. Some people think a costume is what he needs to carry him over the final hump.

DENNIS RICHARD
9 LASALLE AVE.
LAWRENCE MASS.

(Solar's green coloring appears only when his body is undergoing a conversion from matter into energy or when his level of radioactivity is unusually high. At times like these, he usually tries to avoid direct human contact both to protect his secret and to prevent endangering anyone with his radiation. As you'll see in the story that follows, Solar now has a costume. Let us know what you think of it!)

DOCTOR SOLAR is great! The only suggestions I can make are: 1. Have a letter column with complete addresses. 2. Have whoever did the inking in #1 continue to do it. 3. Have the President call upon Dr. S. to perform missions. 4. Give him a costume that neutralizes his radioactivity.

BILL RYAN
1247 DELLWOOD DRIVE
WESTLAKE, OHIO

(In a recent story, THE HIDDEN HANDS, the President did call on Solar for help. It's very possible he'll do it again since he's one of the few people who knows Solar's secret.)

You know why I like DOCTOR SOLAR? — It's because the writer remembers that energy can take almost any form, not just a bolt of lightning or a streak of light. Solar can convert his body into the energy of a tornado or a whirlpool.

The stories are terrific. But, being an art fan primarily, I can't get over the superb artwork in your magazine. I like the way Gail is drawn especially. She, in my opinion, is the most beautiful blonde in comicdom.

I also get a chuckle or two out of PROFESSOR HARBINGER. Keep up this series.

RANDY JONES
705 THIRD STREET
COUNCIL BLUFFS, IOWA

Why not have a letter page in your Super Hero Comics (DOCTOR SOLAR, SUPERCAR, ROBOT FIGHTER and THE PHANTOM). Uniting this foursome into some sort of group dedicated to fighting crime (have ROBOT FIGHTER somehow travel into the past) is also a good idea. How about it?

DANIEL E. MURPHY
79 BREWSTER STREET
WARWICK, R. I.

(We intend to include letter pages in many other GOLD KEY Comics. The next issue of THE PHANTOM, on sale in August, will feature a page of reader comment.
At the moment, we have no plans to combine our "Super Heroes" into a crime fighting group. But the idea has some merits. We'd like to hear from some other readers on this "togetherness" idea.)

Your PROFESSOR HARBINGER does not seem too well acquainted with ancient Greek legends. His pipe-smoking companion points to an area on the map which is quite obviously the Ionian Sea, between Italy and Greece, which is *not* the legendary location of Atlantis. The first mention of Atlantis, in Plato's "Timaeus," places Atlantis "in front of the . . . Pillars of Hercules." The Pillars of Hercules are the Straits of Gibraltar. This places Atlantis, obviously, in the Atlantic Ocean, nowhere near where your young man indicates.

D. H. HUNNEMAN
WIGGLESWORTH H-32
HARVARD COLLEGE
CAMBRIDGE, MASS.

The last time Professor Harbinger studied ancient Greek legend was in his Freshman year at Harvard. As you can tell by looking at him, that was a long time ago!

It's not possible to answer every letter, but we welcome your ideas and comments. Address your mail to: DOCTOR SOLAR, K. K. Publications, Poughkeepsie, New York.

DOCTOR SOLAR

THE NEW MAN OF THE ATOM

BLAZING HEADLINES TELL THE STORY OF TWO COLD-BLOODED KILLERS ATTEMPTING TO CHEAT THE HANGMAN WITH A FANTASTIC TALE ***NO ONE*** COULD BELIEVE! --NO ONE, THAT IS, BUT AN ANGRY ***NURO***, WHO READS BETWEEN THE LINES AND COMES TO SOME ***STARTLING CONCLUSIONS...***

MY MEN ***DIDN'T*** LIE! THEY REALLY MUST HAVE SEEN THAT FANTASTIC MAN CHANGE HIMSELF INTO LIGHT AND ENERGY! AND THIS ISN'T THE ***FIRST*** TIME THAT HE HAS OPPOSED ME---

"ONLY A MAN WITH ***INCREDIBLE*** POWERS COULD HAVE SURVIVED THE UNDERWATER EXPLOSION OF MY GOLD CONVERTER.

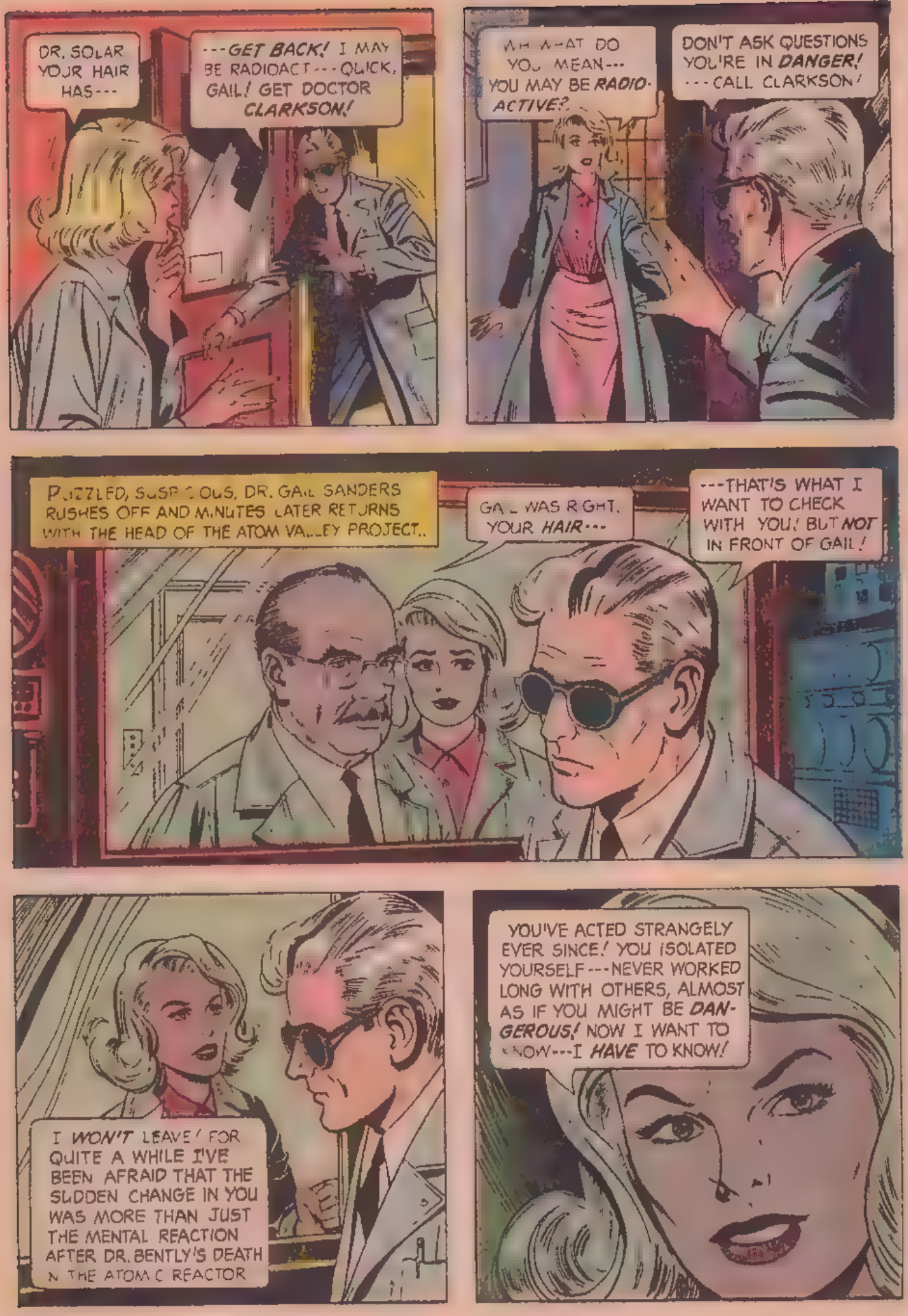
"HE MUST BE THE ONE WHO BURNED MY SPY-IN-THE-SKY SATELLITE...

"AND WITHOUT A DOUBT, ***HE*** EXPOSED AND DESTROYED MY INVISIBLE MAN BY TURNING HIM INTO A MAGNETIC FIELD!"

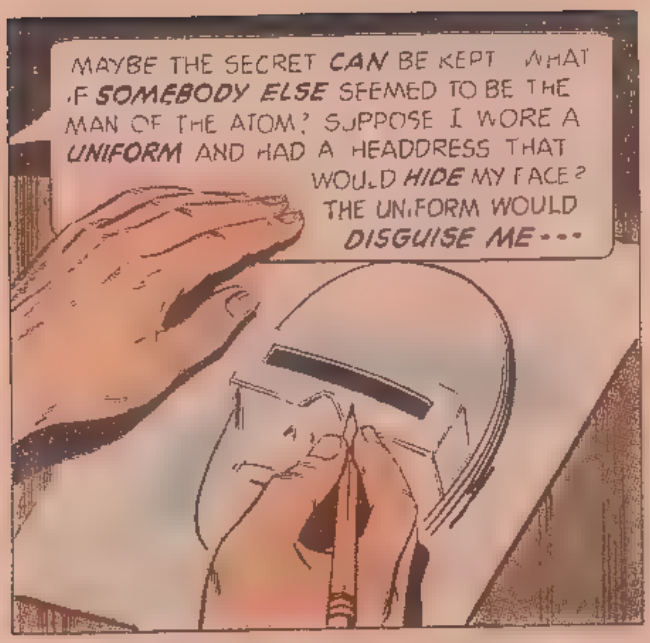
AND HE MUST BE THE SCIENTIST WHO BROUGHT THAT STRANGE CRYSTAL FROM ATOM VALLEY! IT SHOULDN'T BE DIFFICULT TO LEARN ***WHO*** THE ***MAN OF THE ATOM*** IS -- AND ***DESTROY HIM!***

AT THAT VERY MOMENT IN ATOM VALLEY, DR. SOLAR MAKES A STARTLING DISCOVERY.

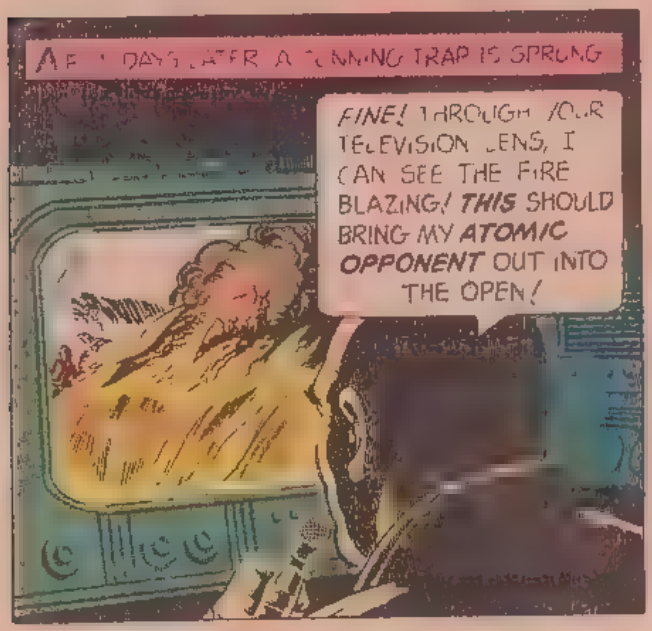
IT ***CAN'T*** BE POSSIBLE! WHAT SUDDENLY TURNED MY HAIR ***WHITE?***


DR. SOLAR YOUR HAIR HAS---
---GET BACK! I MAY BE RADIOACT---QUICK, GAIL! GET DOCTOR CLARKSON!
WH-WHAT DO YOU MEAN--- YOU MAY BE RADIO-ACTIVE?
DON'T ASK QUESTIONS YOU'RE IN DANGER! ---CALL CLARKSON!
PUZZLED, SUSPICIOUS, DR. GAIL SANDERS RUSHES OFF AND MINUTES LATER RETURNS WITH THE HEAD OF THE ATOM VALLEY PROJECT..
GAIL WAS RIGHT. YOUR HAIR---
---THAT'S WHAT I WANT TO CHECK WITH YOU! BUT NOT IN FRONT OF GAIL!
I WON'T LEAVE! FOR QUITE A WHILE I'VE BEEN AFRAID THAT THE SUDDEN CHANGE IN YOU WAS MORE THAN JUST THE MENTAL REACTION AFTER DR. BENTLY'S DEATH IN THE ATOMIC REACTOR
YOU'VE ACTED STRANGELY EVER SINCE! YOU ISOLATED YOURSELF---NEVER WORKED LONG WITH OTHERS, ALMOST AS IF YOU MIGHT BE DANGEROUS! NOW I WANT TO KNOW---I HAVE TO KNOW!

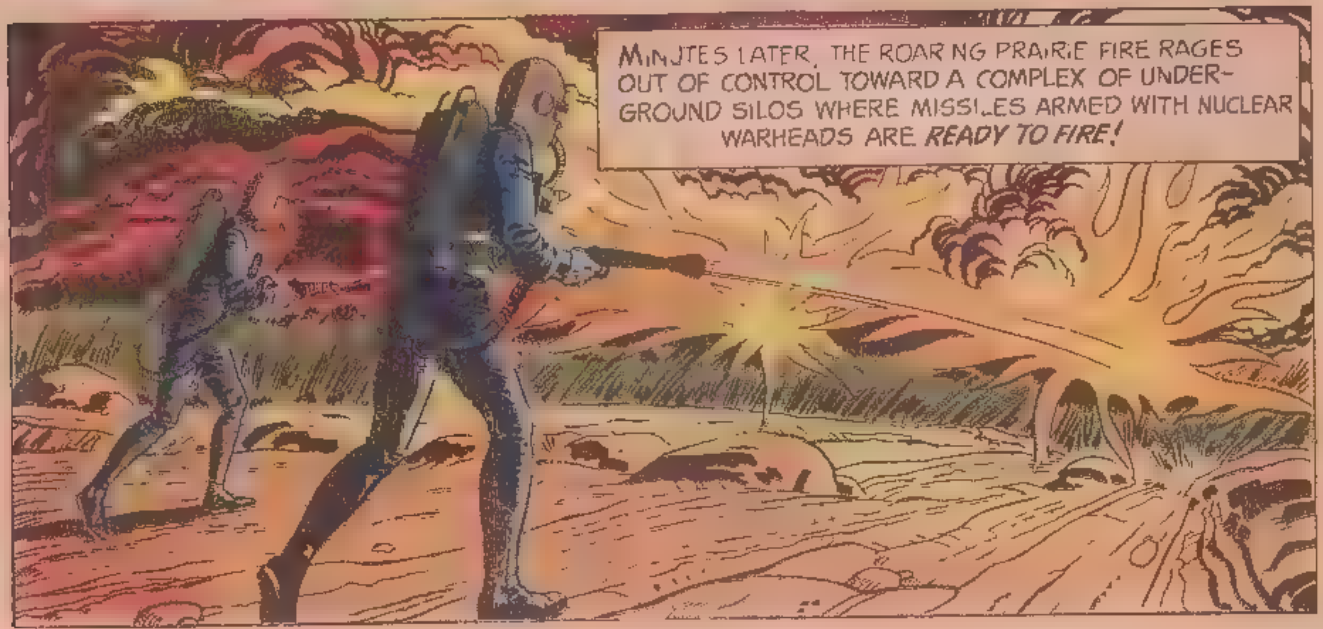
THERE'S NO POINT KEEPING GAIL IN THE DARK *ANY LONGER!*
I SUPPOSE --- NOT! BUT SHE MUST REALIZE THAT SHE'LL SHARE IN A *SECRET* KNOWN ONLY BY YOU, THE HEAD OF SECURITY AND THE PRESIDENT!
QUICKLY, DR. SOLAR EXPLAINS THE ASTOUNDING, UNPRECEDENTED EVENTS THAT TRANSMUTED HIS BODY INTO A NUCLEAR REACTOR WITH AMAZING ATOMIC POWERS.
TH-THEN *YOU* ARE A MAN OF THE ATOM?
YES, GAIL! THAT'S THE REASON I'VE BEEN SO COOL TOWARD YOU!
OF COURSE! NO WONDER YOU SEEMED DISTANT, WITHDRAWN! BUT YOU DO STILL HAVE HUMAN *FEELINGS,* DON'T YOU?
LOOK! HERE'S WHY IT TOOK SO LONG FOR YOUR HAIR TO CHANGE COLOR! BECAUSE OF THE ENZYMATIC NATURE OF HAIR FOLLICLES, THAT'S WHERE THE SLOWEST CONVERSION TOOK PLACE!
GRANTED THAT GAIL IS UNUSUALLY PERCEPTIVE, SO ARE SOME *OTHER* PEOPLE! I'M AFRAID YOUR ATOMIC POWERS *CAN'T* REMAIN SECRET MUCH LONGER!


MAYBE THE SECRET *CAN* BE KEPT ... WHAT IF *SOMEBODY ELSE* SEEMED TO BE THE MAN OF THE ATOM? SUPPOSE I WORE A *UNIFORM* AND HAD A HEADDRESS THAT WOULD *HIDE* MY FACE? THE UNIFORM WOULD *DISGUISE ME*---

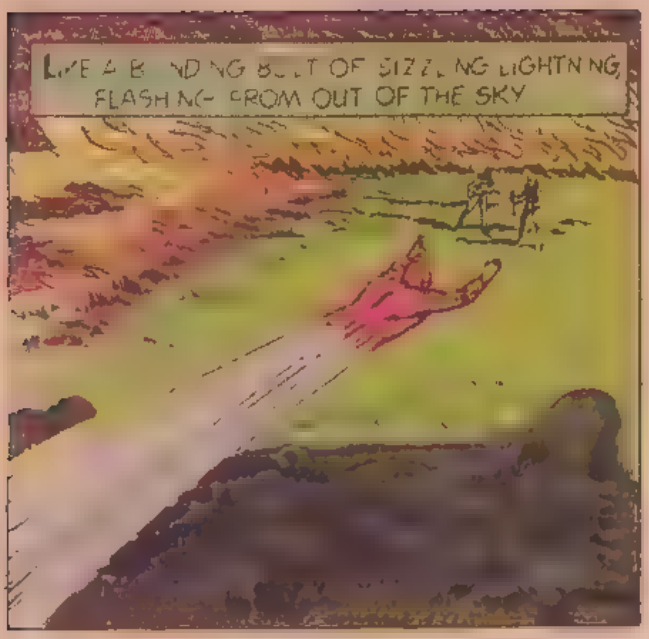
--WHILE ALSO *IDENTIFYING* IS WEARER AS THE *MAN OF THE ATOM!*
HMMM - YOU MEAN DELIBERATELY SET UP A RED HERRING--- IT *MIGHT* JUST WORK.

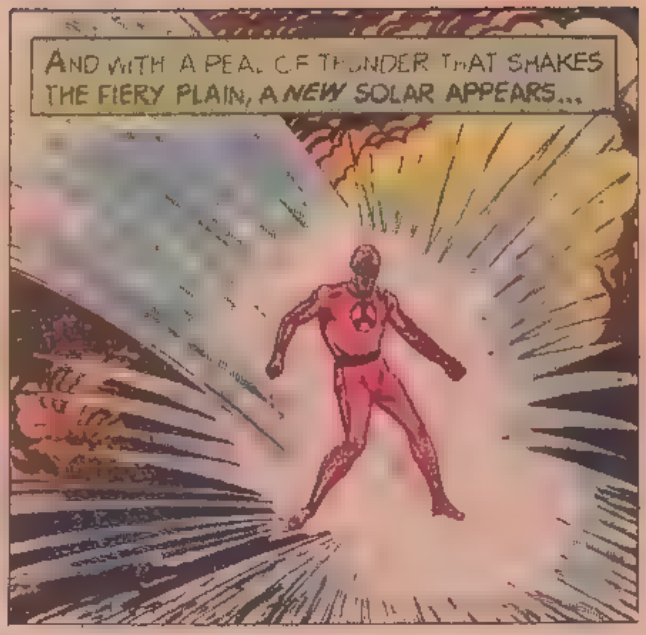

A FEW DAYS LATER A CUNNING TRAP IS SPRUNG
FINE! THROUGH YOUR TELEVISION LENS, I CAN SEE THE FIRE BLAZING! *THIS* SHOLD BRING MY *ATOMIC OPPONENT* OUT INTO THE OPEN!

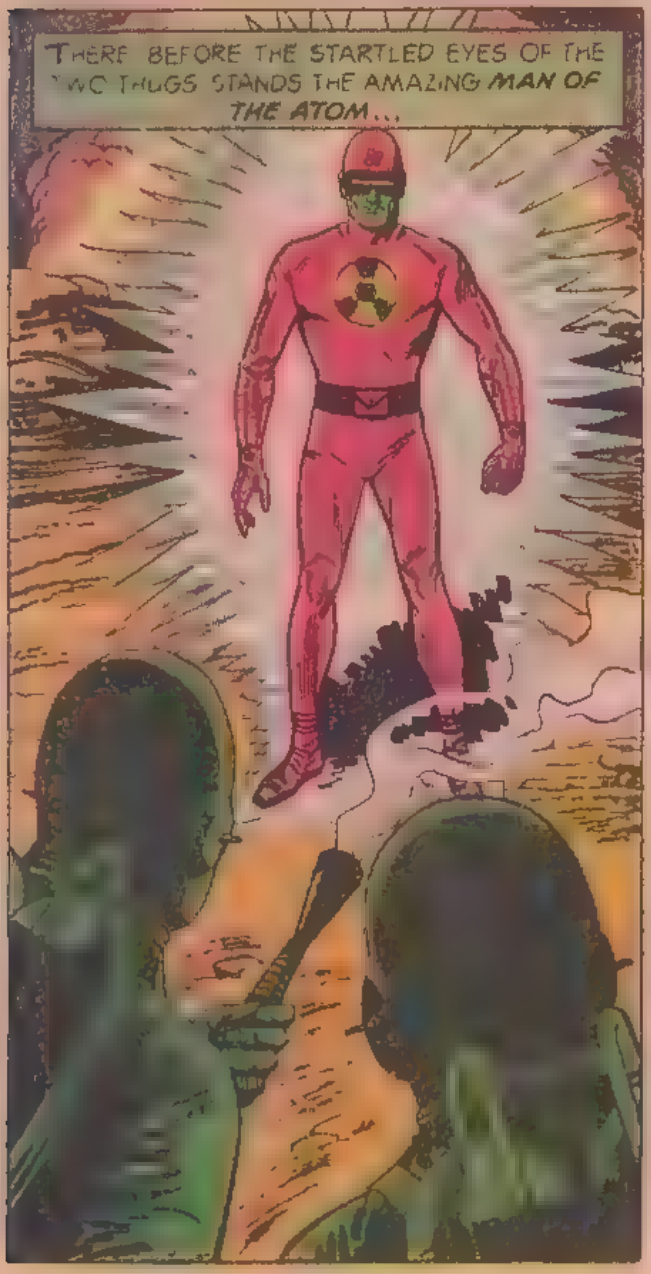
...ON THE OPEN PLAIN NOT FAR FROM ATOM VALLEY, NURO'S HENCHMEN ARE AT WORK SPREADING DESTRUCTION WITH DEADLY *FLAME THROWERS!*

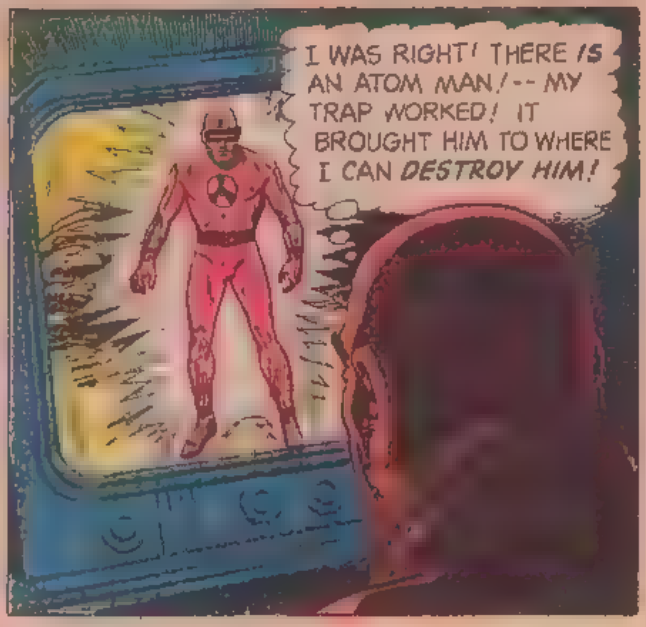

MINUTES LATER, THE ROARING PRAIRIE FIRE RAGES OUT OF CONTROL TOWARD A COMPLEX OF UNDERGROUND SILOS WHERE MISSILES ARMED WITH NUCLEAR WARHEADS ARE *READY TO FIRE!*

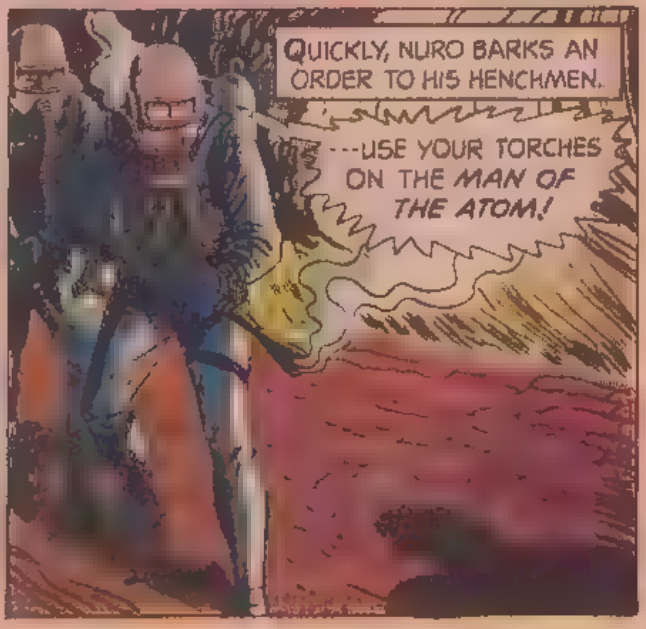
IMMEDIATELY, AN INSISTENT ALARM CLANGS ACROSS ATOM VALLEY...
ATTENTION! A FIRE IS REPORTED ON THE PLAIN BEYOND THE MOUNTAINS REMAIN HERE! DO NOT LEAVE THE VALLEY!
SOLAR!--THAT FIRE IS SPREADING TO OUR MISSILE BASE! IF IT HITS THE ELECTRICAL RELAY SYSTEMS, THOSE MISSILES COULD BE ACCIDENTALLY LAUNCHED!
ONCE THEY ARE FIRED, WE'LL BE IN SERIOUS DANGER OF A RETALIATORY STRIKE!--THAT FIRE COULD TRIGGER A WAR!
THEN, THIS MAY BE THE PERFECT TIME TO REVEAL THE MAN OF THE ATOM! IF ANYONE CAN STOP THE FIRE-- HE SHOULD BE THE ONE!
SO THAT'S YOUR UNIFORM! YOU CERTAINLY PICKED THE PERFECT SYMBOL---THE SIGN FOR RADIOACTIVITY!
LATER, NURO'S MEN PAUSE IN THEIR DESTRUCTIVE WORK TO GAPE AT A FANTASTIC SIGHT IN THE SKY ABOVE
WH WHAT IS THAT?
WHATEVER IT IS--- IT'S COMING RIGHT FOR US!


LIKE A BLINDING BOLT OF SIZZLING LIGHTNING FLASHING FROM OUT OF THE SKY

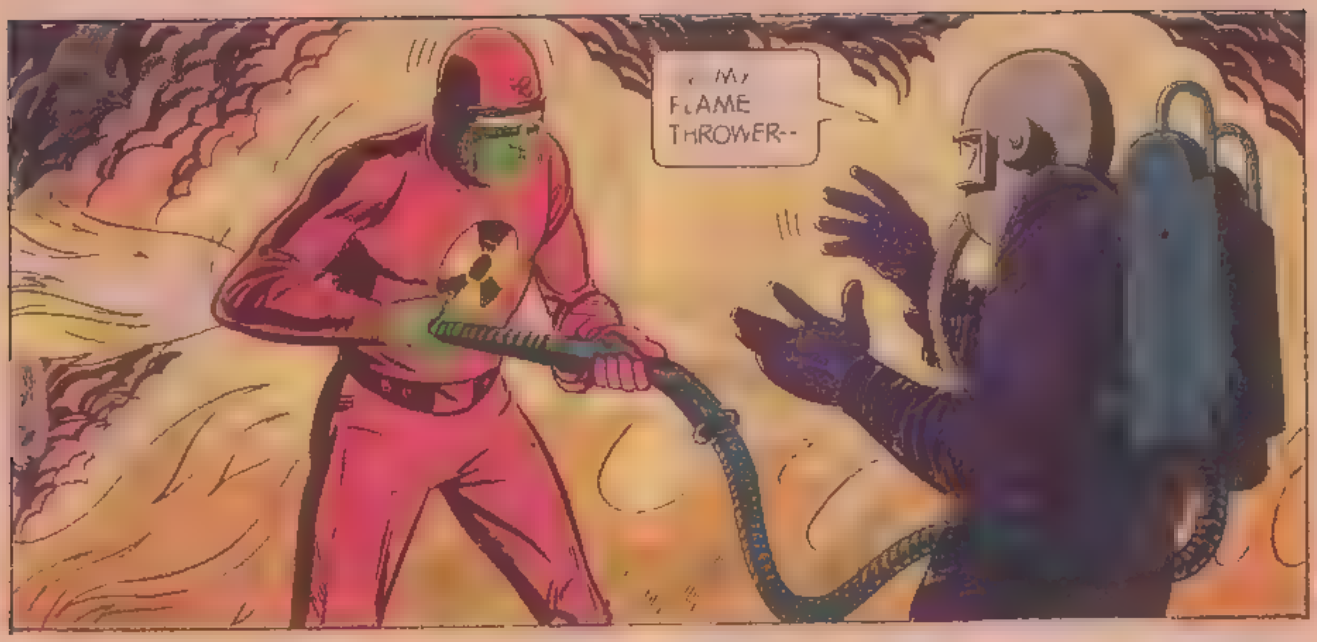

AND WITH A PEAL OF THUNDER THAT SHAKES THE FIERY PLAIN, A NEW SOLAR APPEARS...


THERE BEFORE THE STARTLED EYES OF THE TWO THUGS STANDS THE AMAZING MAN OF THE ATOM...

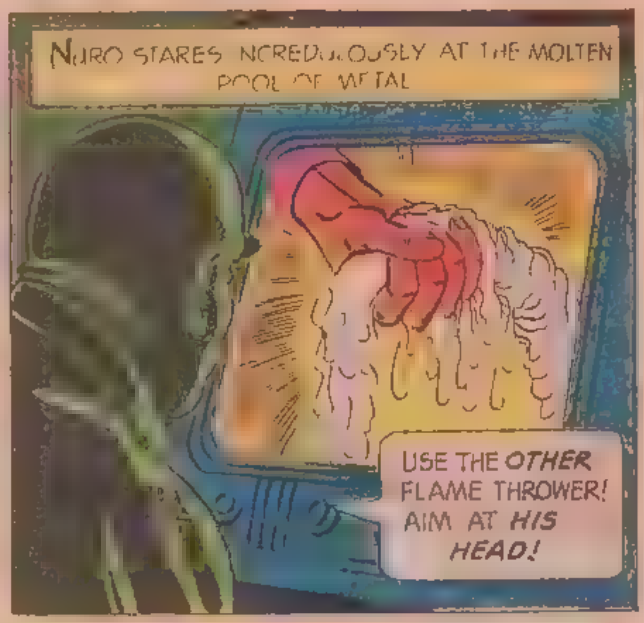

I WAS RIGHT! THERE IS AN ATOM MAN! -- MY TRAP WORKED! IT BROUGHT HIM TO WHERE I CAN DESTROY HIM!

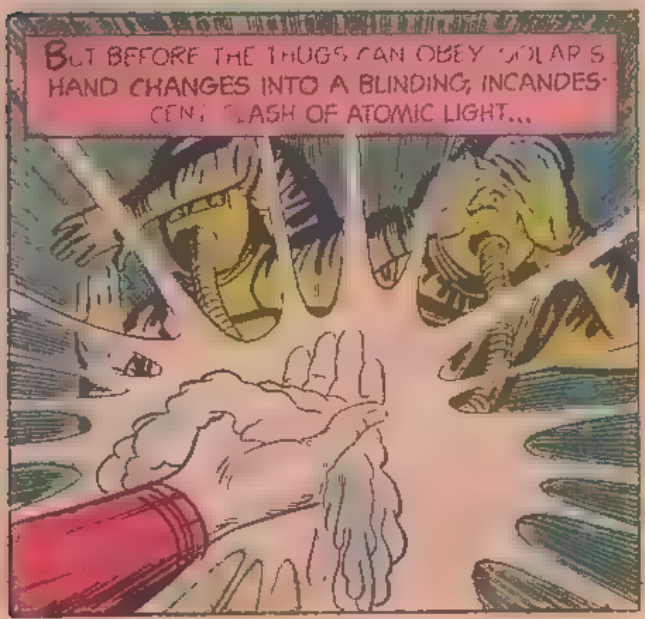

QUICKLY, NURO BARKS AN ORDER TO HIS HENCHMEN.
---USE YOUR TORCHES ON THE MAN OF THE ATOM!

THIS FLAME IS HOT ENOUGH TO STOP A SHERMAN TANK!
I-IT ISN'T DOING A THING! USE YOUR FLAME THROWER QUICK!
ST-STILL NO USE! KEEP BLASTING HIM!
WATCH OUT! HE'S COMING RIGHT AT US! WHAT KIND OF MAN IS THIS?
BUT THE SEARING FLAMES HAVE NO EFFECT ON SOLAR WHO ADVANCES RELENTLESSLY! SUDDENLY, HIS BARED, RADIOACTIVE HAND SWEEPS FORWARD...


MY FLAME THROWER--

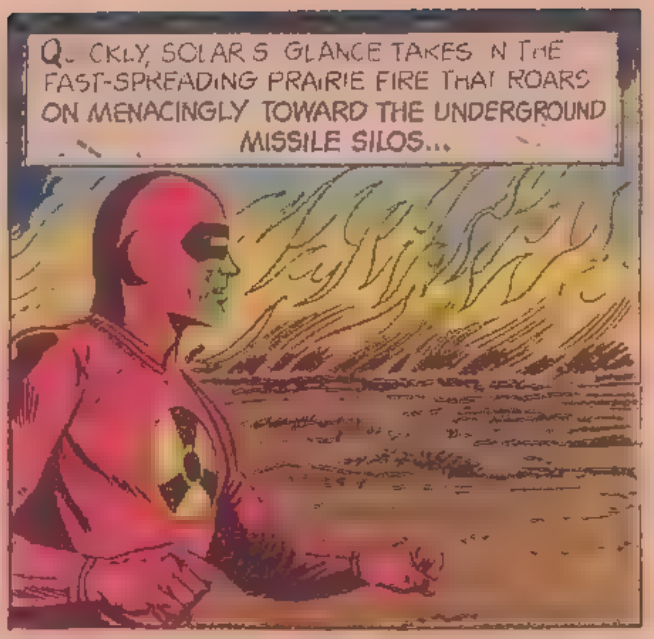
REDDER AND REDDER, SOLAR'S HAND GLOWS, AS NUCLEAR HEAT FLOWS THROUGH HIS FINGERS, MELTING THE WEAPON ON CONTACT


NURO STARES INCREDULOUSLY AT THE MOLTEN POOL OF METAL
USE THE OTHER FLAME THROWER! AIM AT HIS HEAD!


BUT BEFORE THE THUGS CAN OBEY, SOLAR'S HAND CHANGES INTO A BLINDING, INCANDESCENT FLASH OF ATOMIC LIGHT...

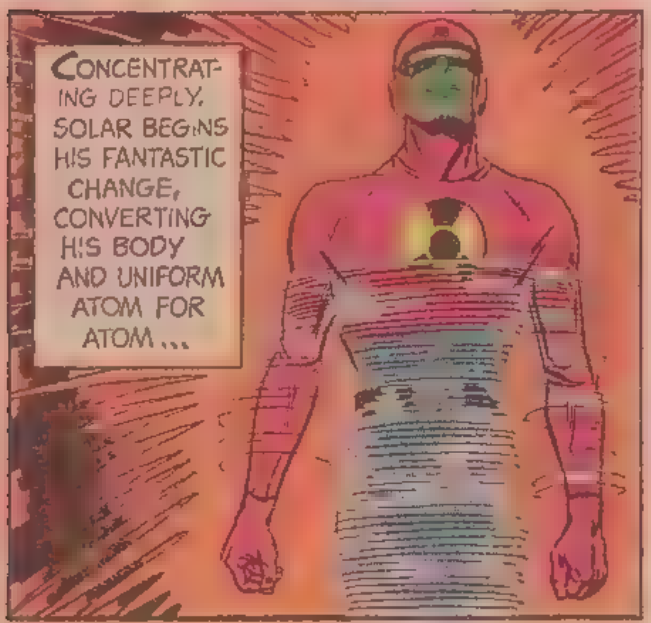
M MY EYES ---I CAN'T SEE HIM.

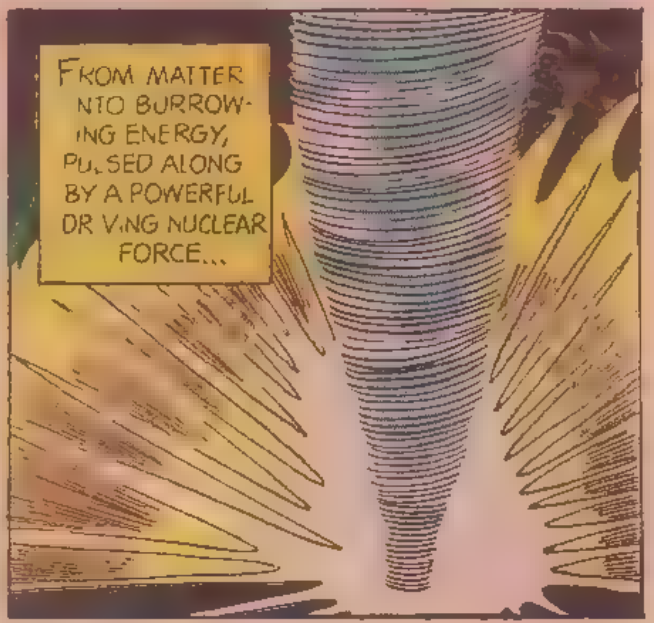
I CAN'T SEE -
BY THE TIME YOU CAN SEE AGAIN, I'LL BE BACK FOR YOU!


QUICKLY, SOLAR'S GLANCE TAKES IN THE FAST-SPREADING PRAIRIE FIRE THAT ROARS ON MENACINGLY TOWARD THE UNDERGROUND MISSILE SILOS...

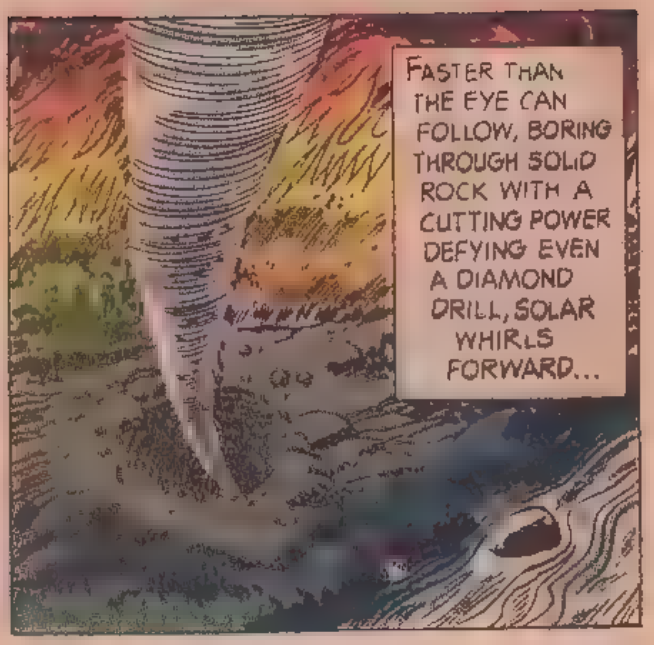
THE RIVER! IF I CAN FLOOD THE PLAINS AND SILOS, THE THREAT WILL BE ENDED!

THE ONLY WAY TO MAKE THE RIVER CHANGE COURSE IS TO CONVERT MYSELF INTO AN ATOMIC-POWERED DRILL!

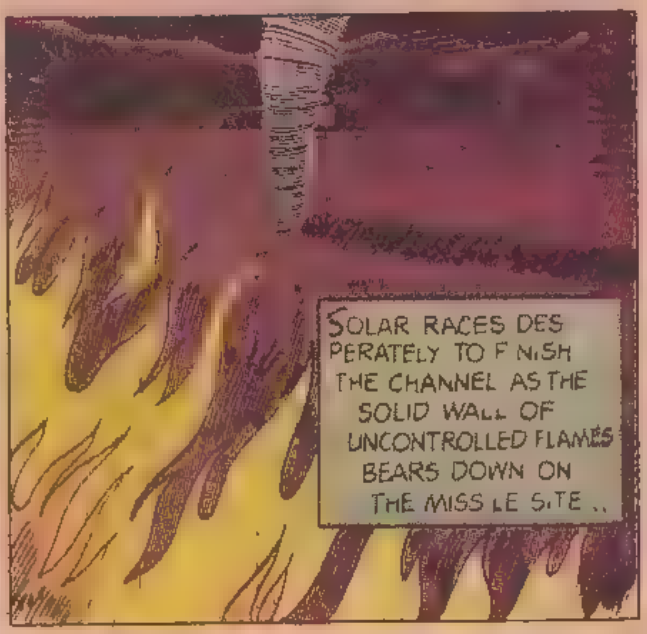

CONCENTRATING DEEPLY, SOLAR BEGINS HIS FANTASTIC CHANGE, CONVERTING HIS BODY AND UNIFORM ATOM FOR ATOM...

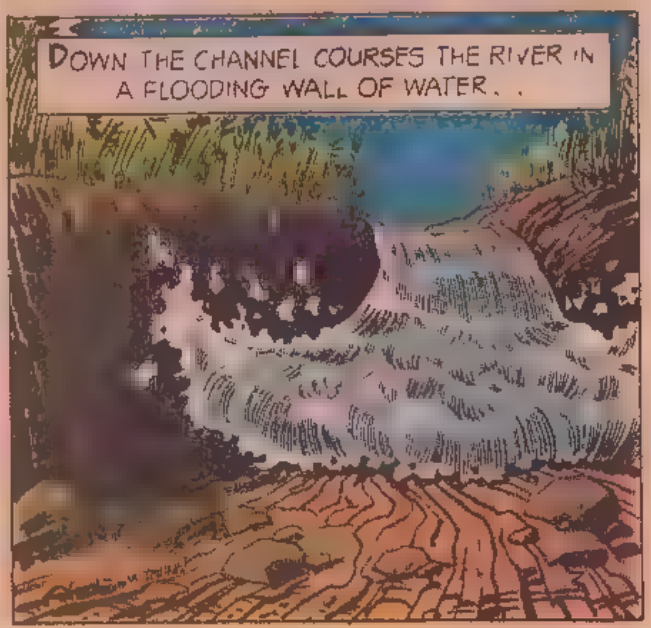

FROM MATTER INTO BURROWING ENERGY, PULSED ALONG BY A POWERFUL DRIVING NUCLEAR FORCE...

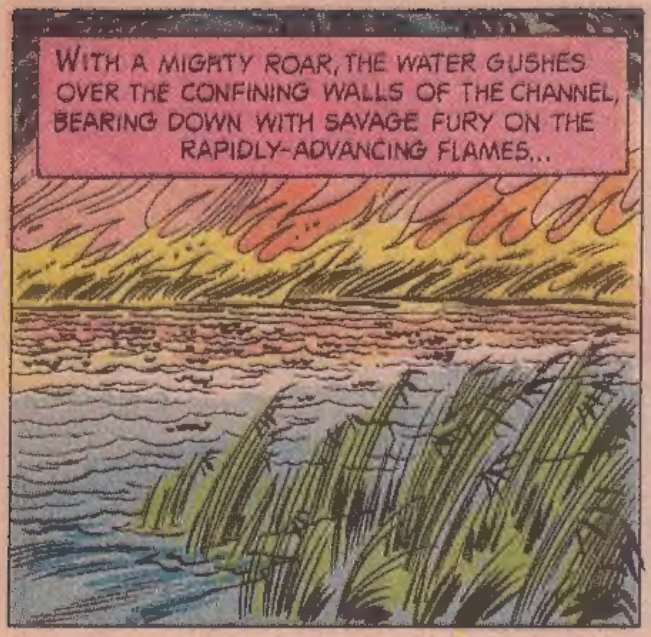
IMPOSSIBLE-- EVEN IF I DID SEE IT MYSELF! BUT WHY DID HE CHANGE?

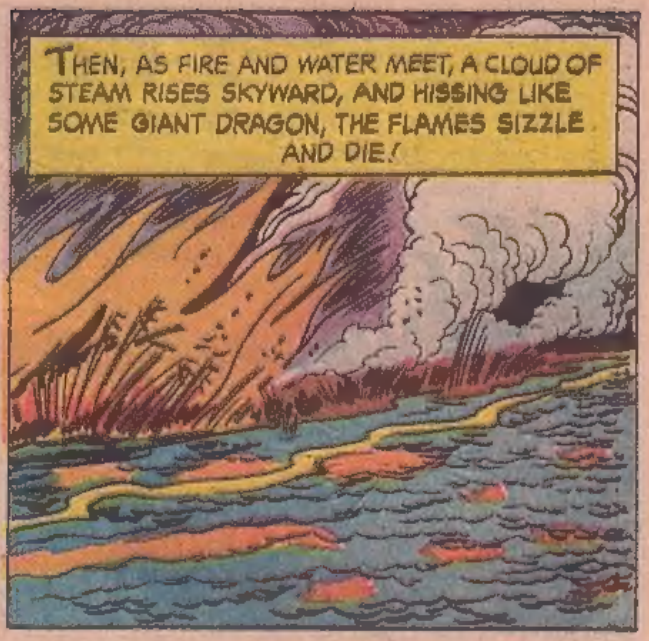

FASTER THAN THE EYE CAN FOLLOW, BORING THROUGH SOLID ROCK WITH A CUTTING POWER DEFYING EVEN A DIAMOND DRILL, SOLAR WHIRLS FORWARD...

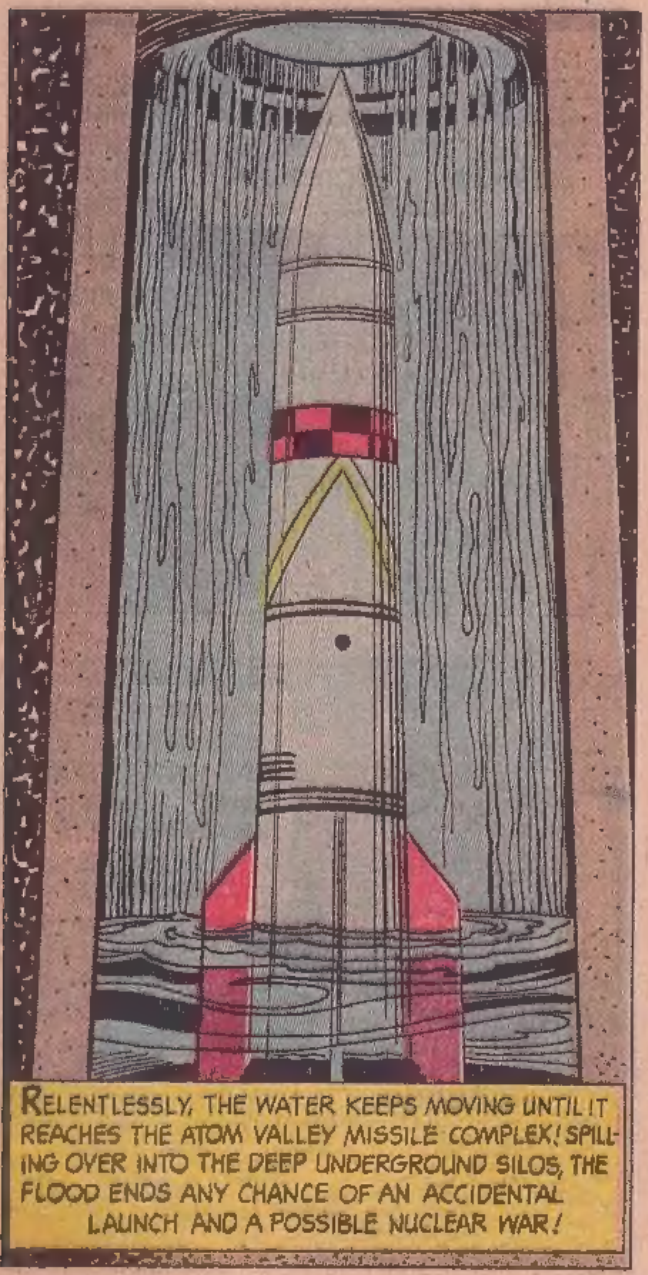
EARTH DISINTEGRATES BEFORE THE EXPLOSIVE PRESSURE AND A TRENCH RAPIDLY CUTS ACROSS THE PLAIN..

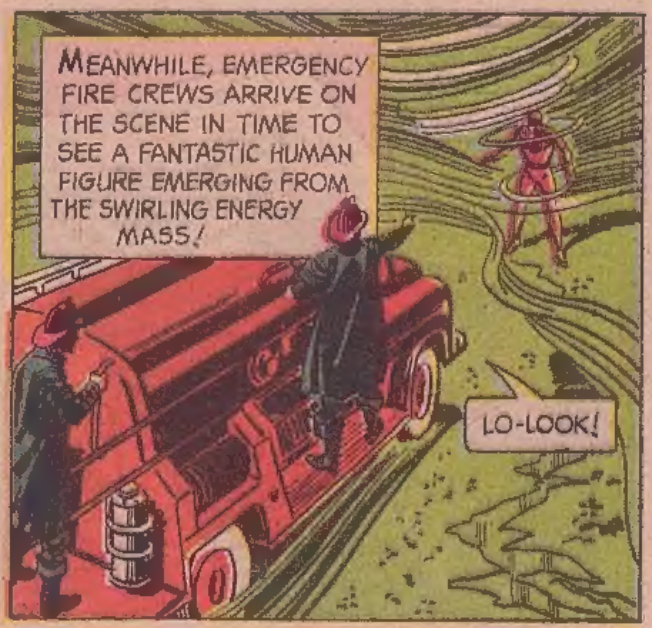

SOLAR RACES DESPERATELY TO FINISH THE CHANNEL AS THE SOLID WALL OF UNCONTROLLED FLAMES BEARS DOWN ON THE MISSILE SITE..


DOWN THE CHANNEL COURSES THE RIVER IN A FLOODING WALL OF WATER..

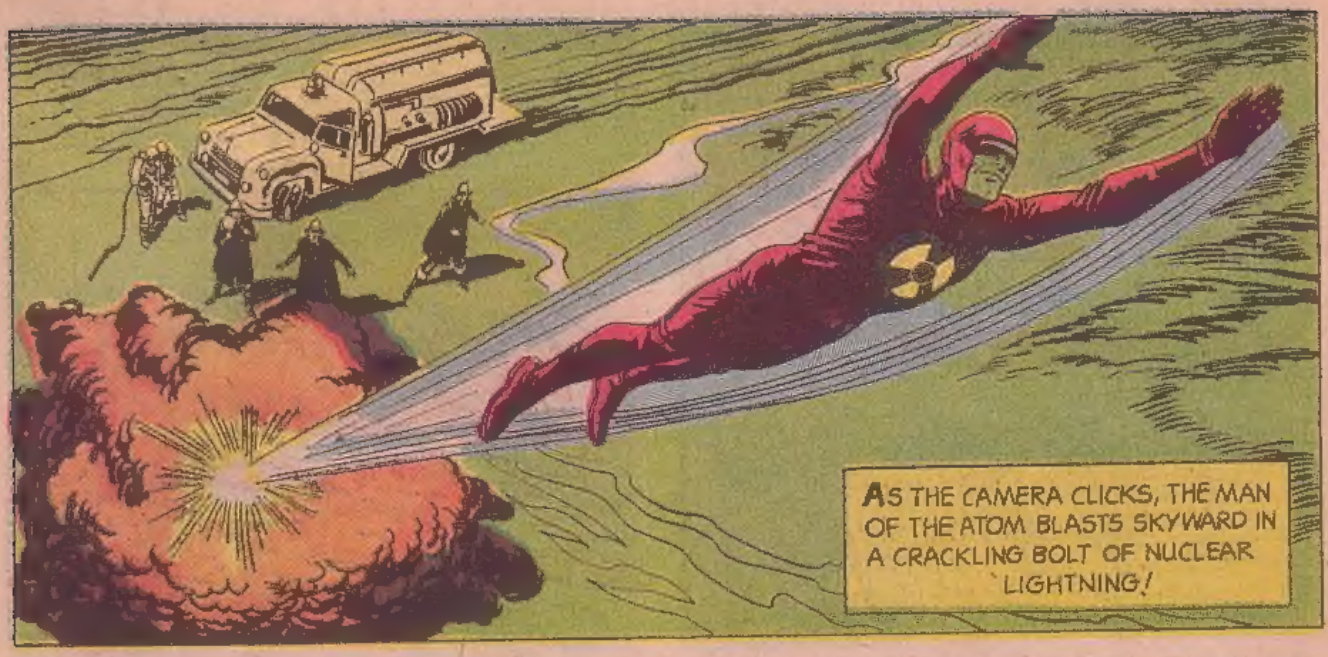

WITH A MIGHTY ROAR, THE WATER GUSHES OVER THE CONFINING WALLS OF THE CHANNEL, BEARING DOWN WITH SAVAGE FURY ON THE RAPIDLY-ADVANCING FLAMES...


THEN, AS FIRE AND WATER MEET, A CLOUD OF STEAM RISES SKYWARD, AND HISSING LIKE SOME GIANT DRAGON, THE FLAMES SIZZLE AND DIE!

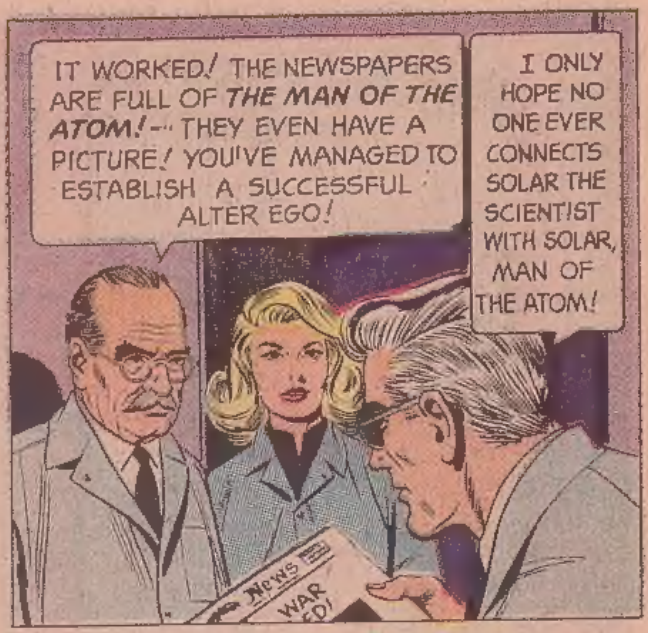

RELENTLESSLY, THE WATER KEEPS MOVING UNTIL IT REACHES THE ATOM VALLEY MISSILE COMPLEX! SPILLING OVER INTO THE DEEP UNDERGROUND SILOS, THE FLOOD ENDS ANY CHANCE OF AN ACCIDENTAL LAUNCH AND A POSSIBLE NUCLEAR WAR!

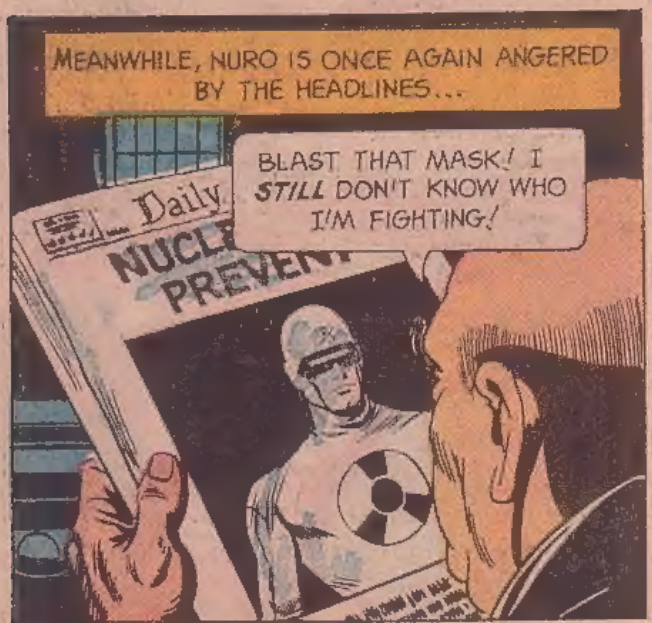

MEANWHILE, EMERGENCY FIRE CREWS ARRIVE ON THE SCENE IN TIME TO SEE A FANTASTIC HUMAN FIGURE EMERGING FROM THE SWIRLING ENERGY MASS!
LO-LOOK!

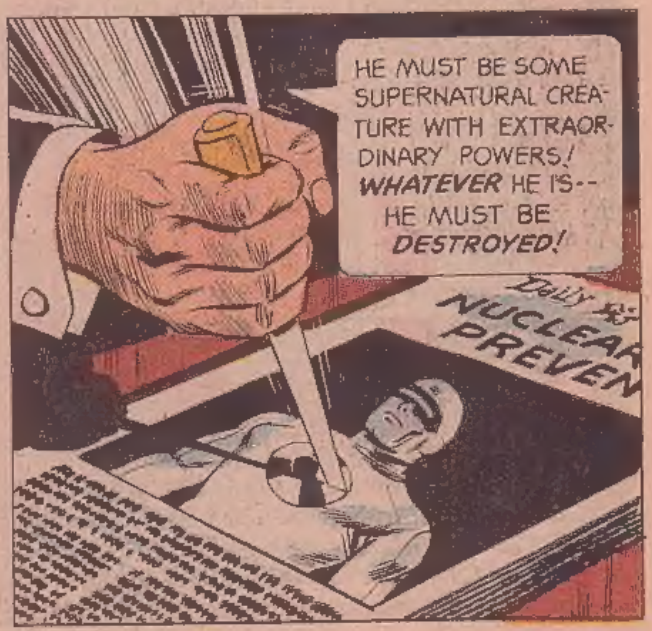
THE FIRE IS OUT! HERE ARE THE MEN WHO STARTED IT!
WHO IS *THIS* MAN? ---I'D BETTER GET A PICTURE OF HIM!


AS THE CAMERA CLICKS, THE MAN OF THE ATOM BLASTS SKYWARD IN A CRACKLING BOLT OF NUCLEAR LIGHTNING!

LATER, THE HEADLINES TELL A STRANGE STORY...
Daily News
NUCLEAR WAR PREVENTED!


IT WORKED! THE NEWSPAPERS ARE FULL OF THE MAN OF THE ATOM! -- THEY EVEN HAVE A PICTURE! YOU'VE MANAGED TO ESTABLISH A SUCCESSFUL ALTER EGO!
I ONLY HOPE NO ONE EVER CONNECTS SOLAR THE SCIENTIST WITH SOLAR, MAN OF THE ATOM!


MEANWHILE, NURO IS ONCE AGAIN ANGERED BY THE HEADLINES...
BLAST THAT MASK! I STILL DON'T KNOW WHO I'M FIGHTING!
Daily


HE MUST BE SOME SUPERNATURAL CREATURE WITH EXTRAORDINARY POWERS! WHATEVER HE IS-- HE MUST BE DESTROYED!
Daily

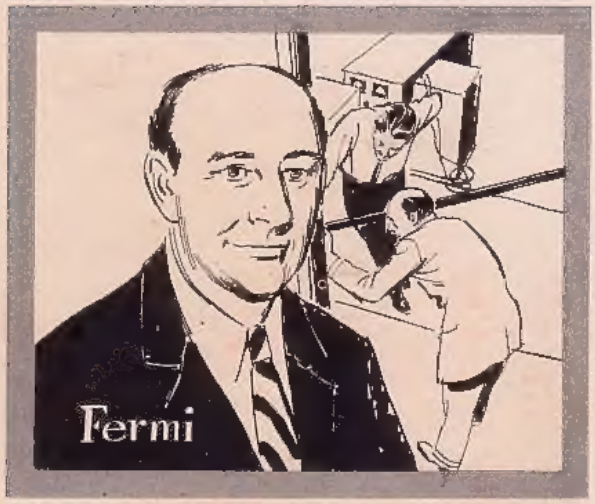
KEYS OF KNOWLEDGE

ATOMIC ENERGY

NUMBER 6

BEGINNING THE ATOMIC AGE

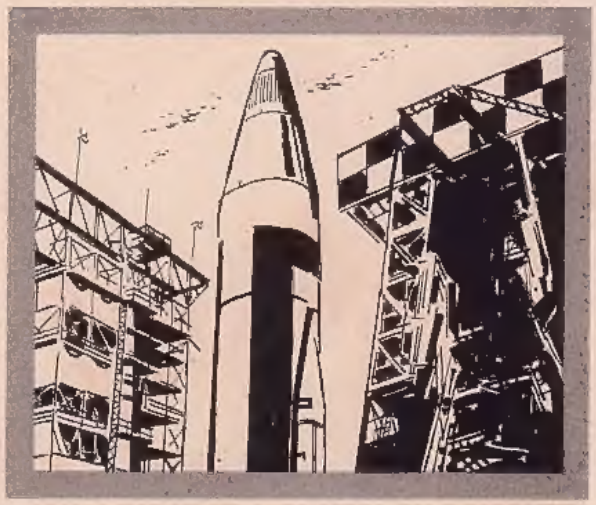
This is one of a series of information features in Gold Key Comics. Collect the whole series for useful knowledge.



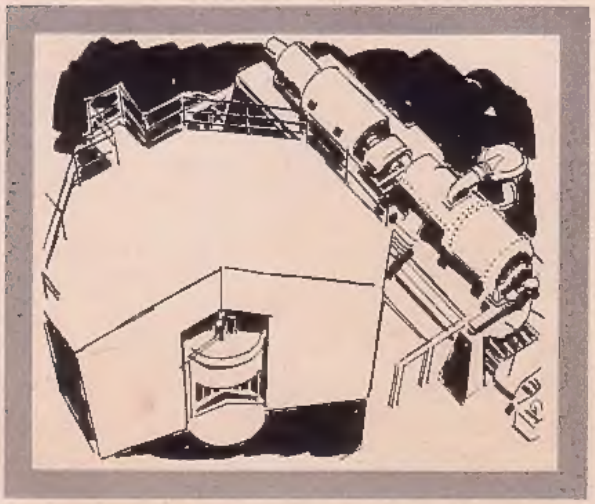
The beginning of this Atomic Age was ushered in when the first controlled sustained chain reaction was produced at Stagg Field,

© 1963, WESTERN PUBLISHING COMPANY, INC.

——University of Chicago, on December 2, 1942, by Enrico Fermi and his staff of scientists. The Atomic Bomb was a direct result.



Like most of the great scientific discoveries of the past, atomic power was first developed for war use and today's weapons can all be



——armed with atomic warheads if need be. But, also like other inventions, its power was soon diverted into peaceful uses for man.

We haven't as yet learned to make lead into gold but we have been using fission in the Uranium Series to make uranium into lead.

SOLAR PIN-UP NO 5